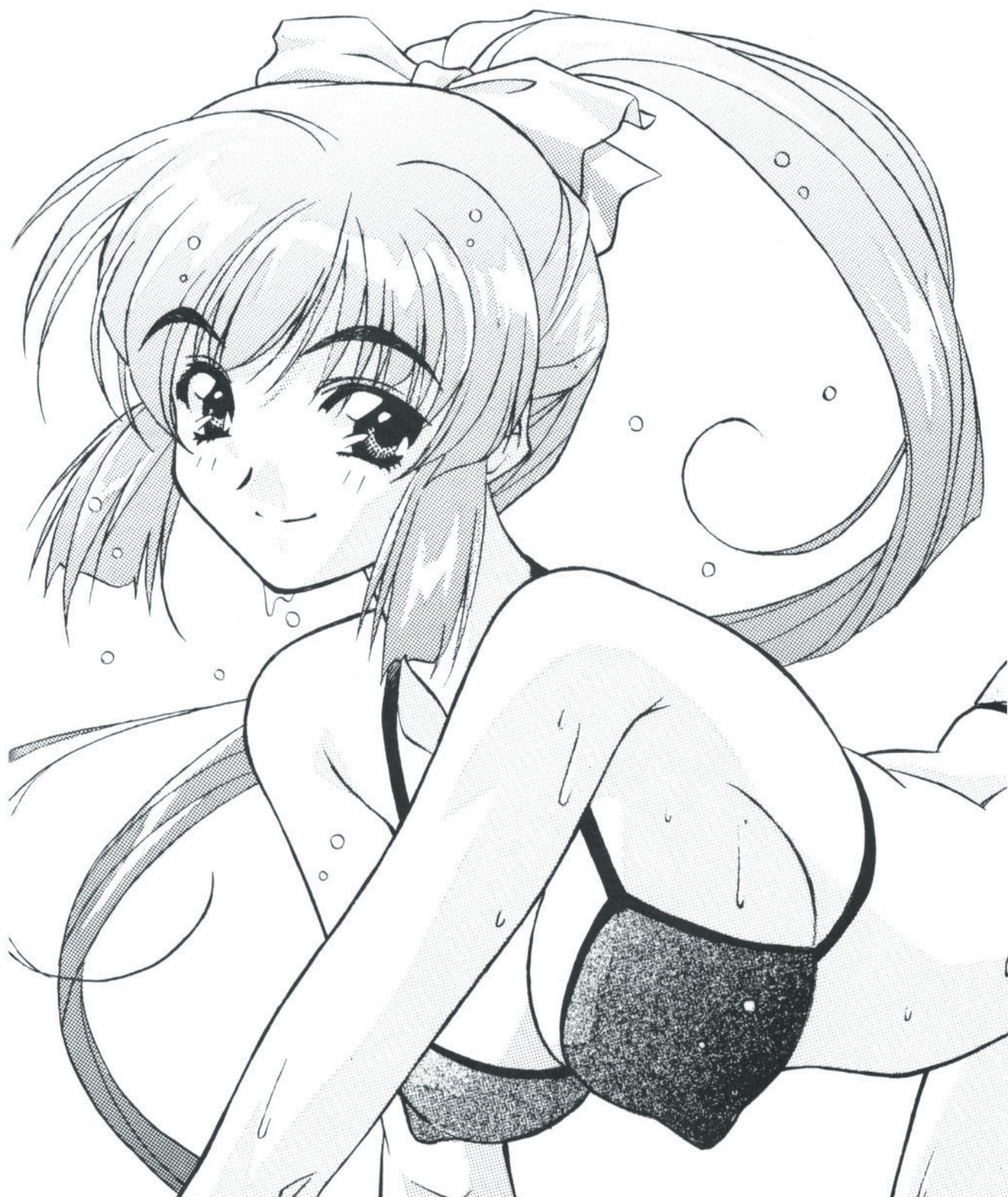
Techniques for Drawing FEMALE MANGA CHARACTERS

Written by Hikaru Hayashi

Techniques for Drawing Female Manga Characters

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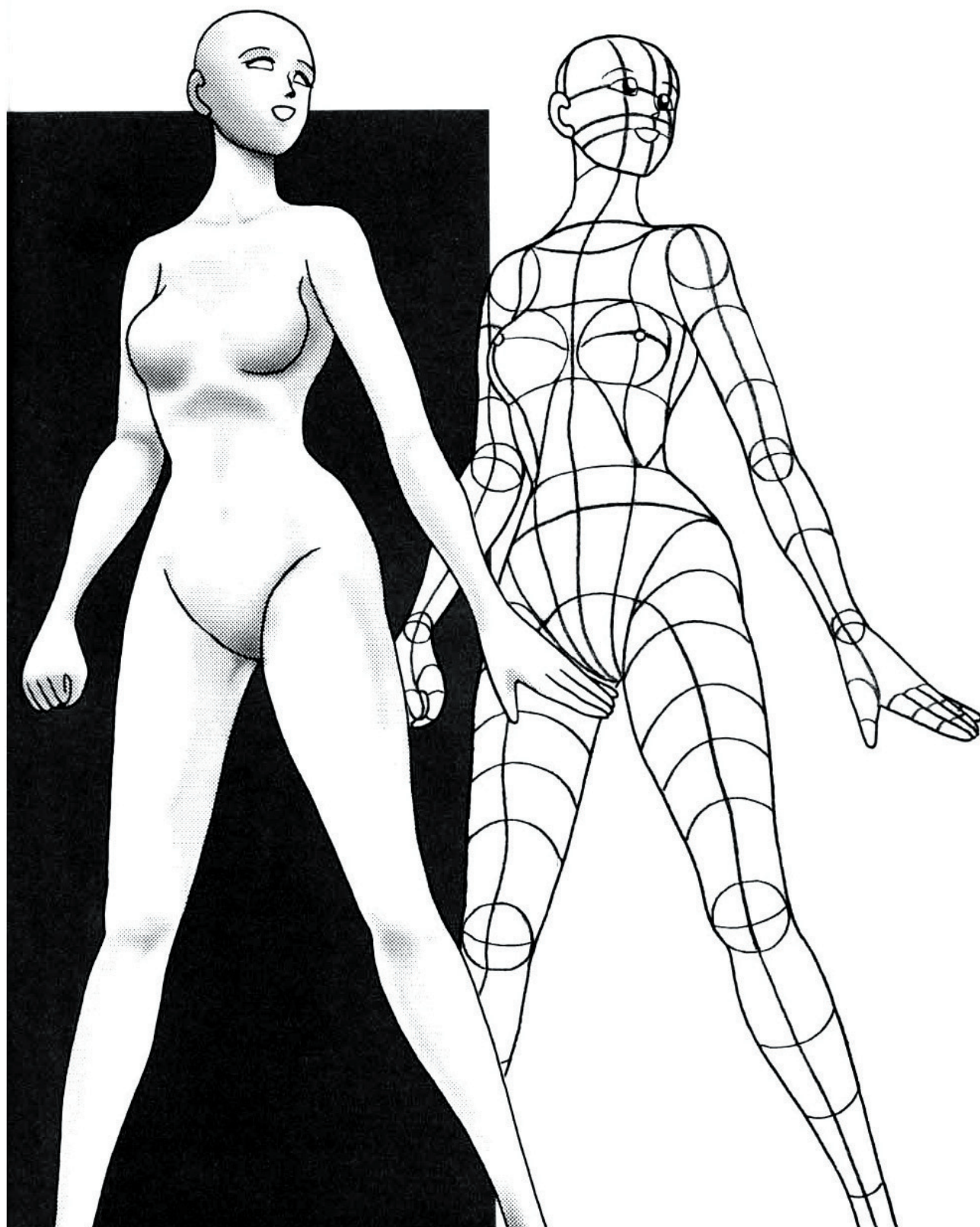
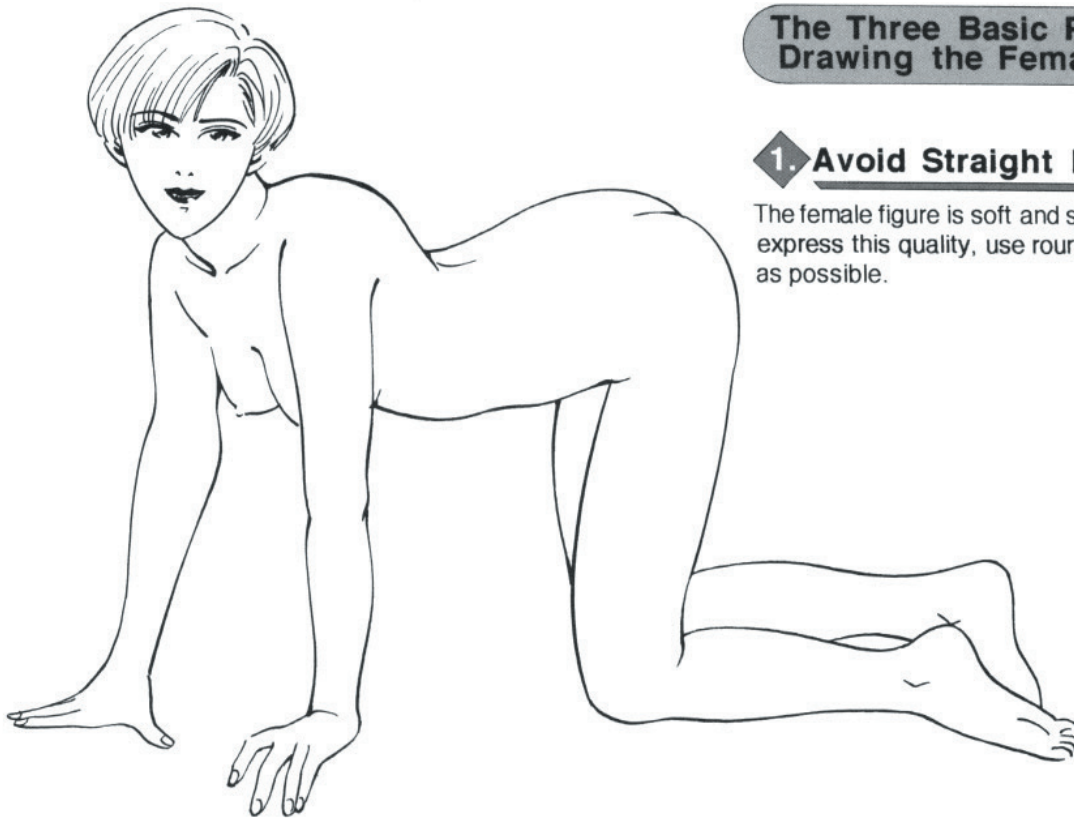
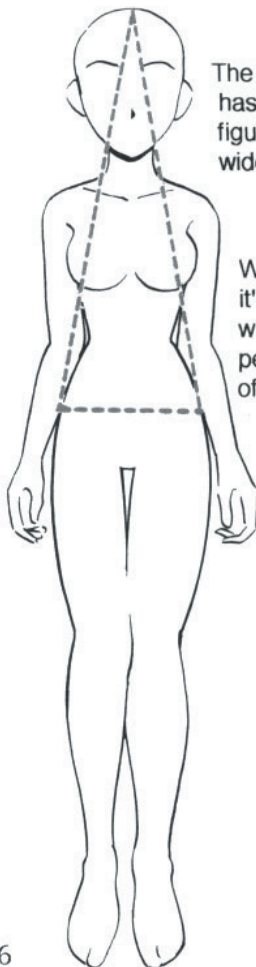
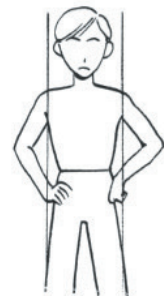
Drawing the Female Figure: The Basic Rules

The Three Basic Rules for Drawing the Female Figure

1. Avoid Straight Lines

The female figure is soft and supple. In order to express this quality, use rounded lines as much as possible.

2. Envision a Triangle

The female figure characteristically has a larger pelvis than the male figure. The hips should be drawn wide.

When blocking out your drawing, it's helpful to think of a triangle whose base is the width of the pelvis and whose apex is the top of the head.

Shoulder and Hip Width of the Male Figure

When drawing the male figure, the shoulders should be wider than the hips.

Even when a man has narrow shoulders, the hips should be drawn narrower than the shoulders.

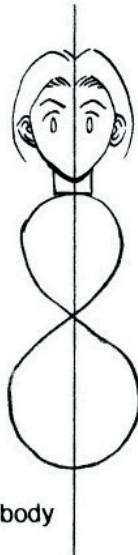
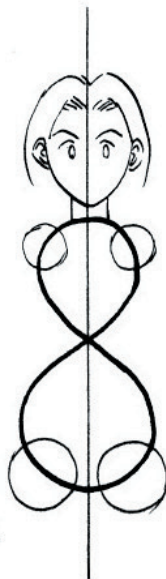
When drawing a woman with broad shoulders . . .

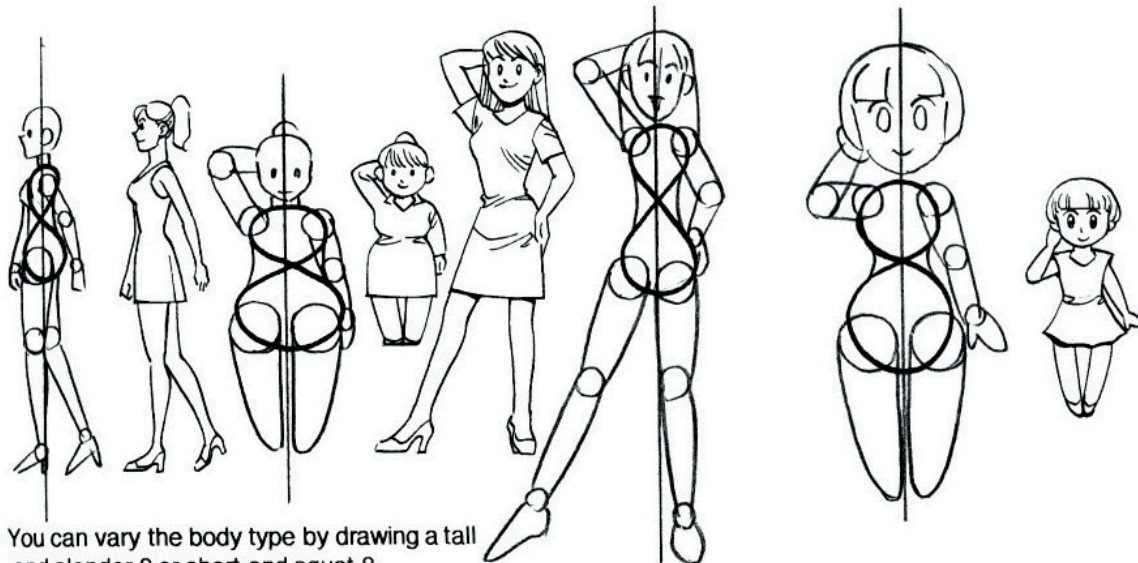
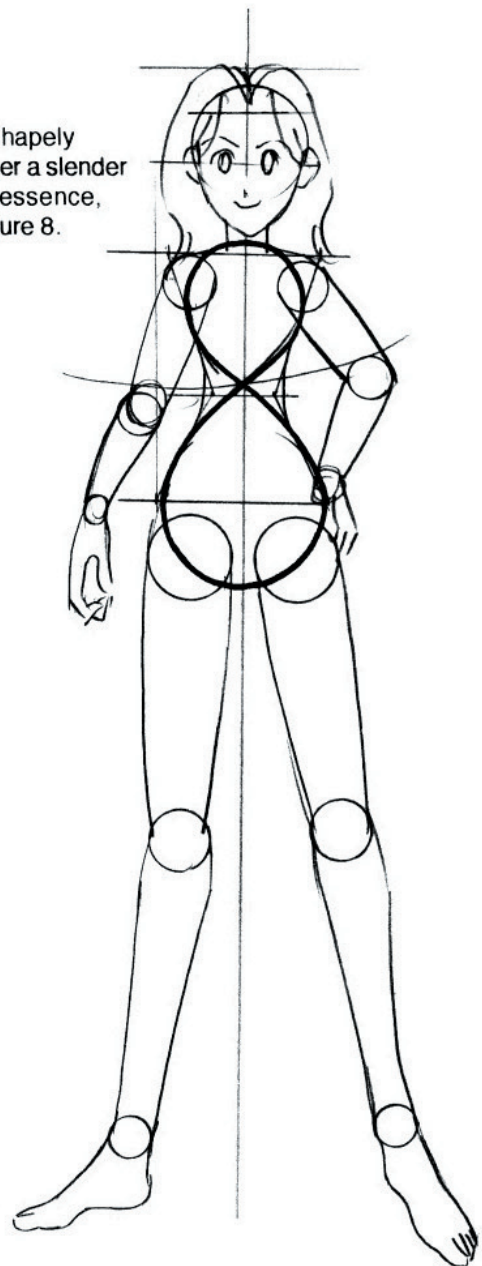
A woman with wide shoulders becomes more feminine if drawn with her hip sticking out.

3. Envision a Figure Eight

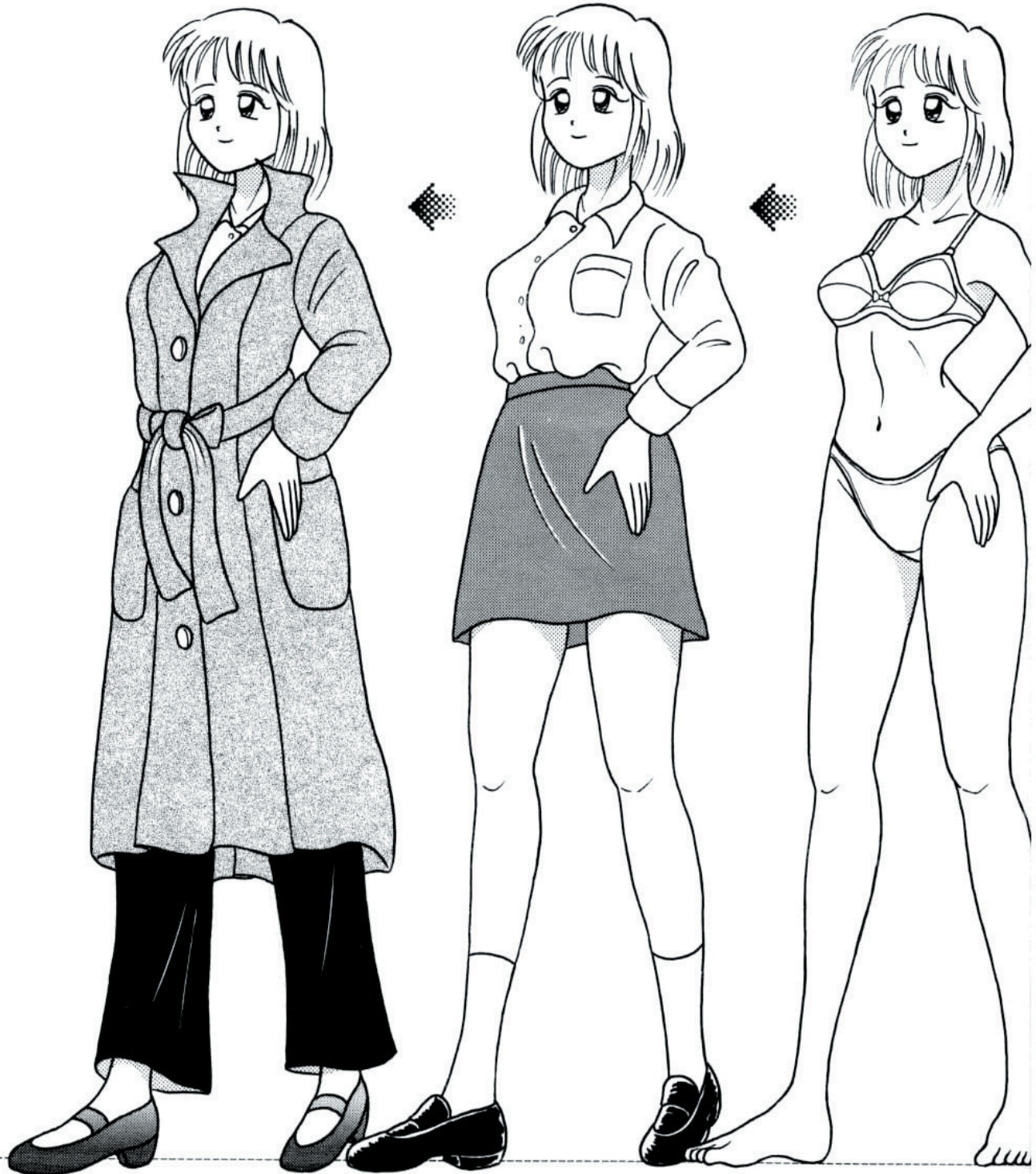
The secret to drawing a shapely female figure is to give her a slender waist and broad hips. In essence, you want to think of a figure 8.

First draw the head.

1. It helps to draw a guide line down the center.

2. Draw a figure 8 for the body under the head.

3. Draw small circles where the arms and legs will be attached. These will become the joints.

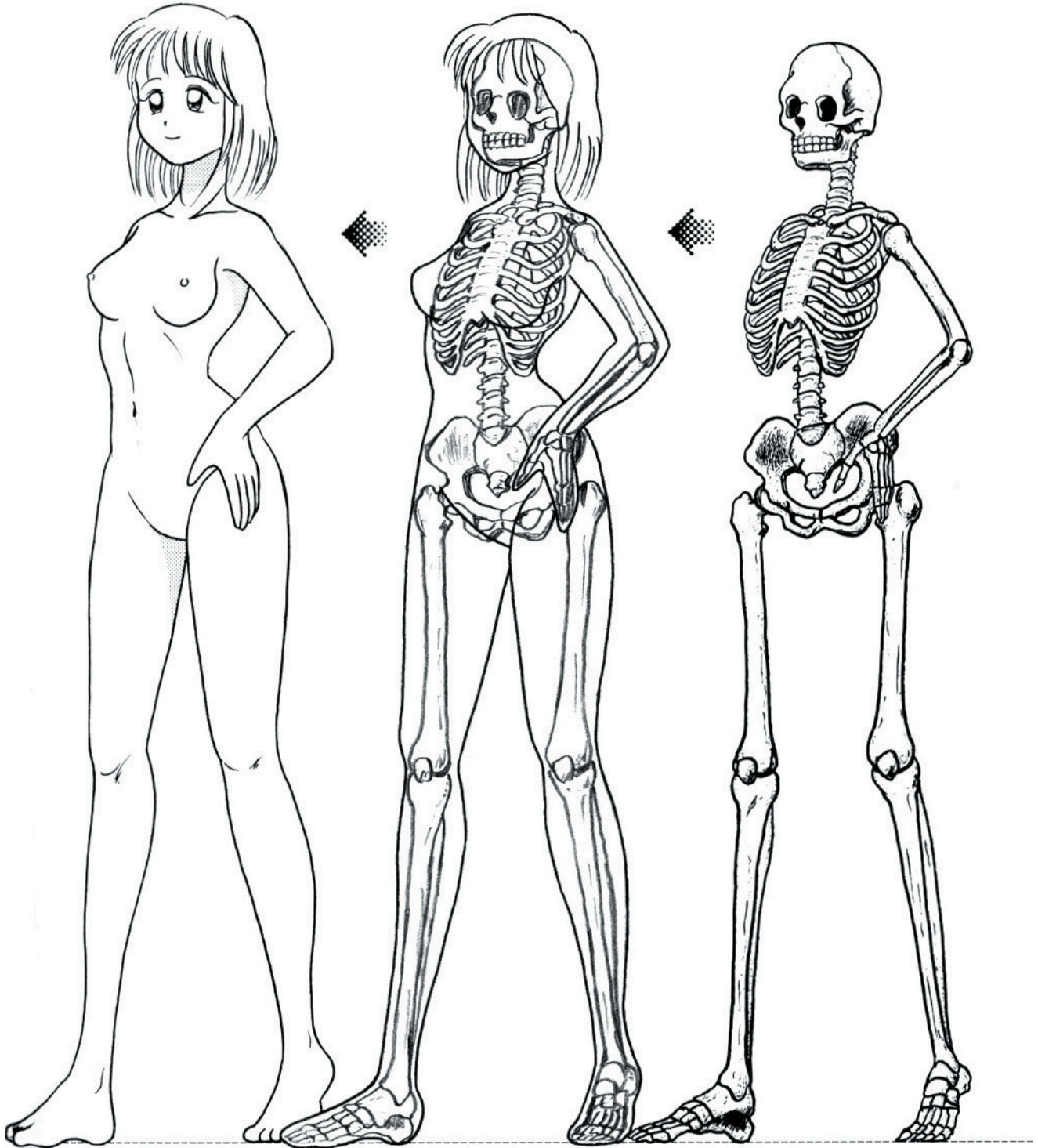
4. Flesh out the waist and draw the arms and legs.

- You can vary the body type by drawing a tall and slender 8 or short and squat 8.
- The size of the circles drawn for the joints determines the thickness of the arms and legs.

The Human Body

The flesh is essentially clothing for the bones. Ask "What kind of clothes do I want these bones to wear?" You can create an endless variety of figures by changing how you "dress" the bones with flesh.

Wearing overcoat

In skirt and blouse

In undergarments

The human body is built upon a skeleton of bones, which are covered with muscle, fat, and skin. Bone structure and the flesh (muscle and fat) attached to it vary from person to person.

Nude

Transparent view

Skeleton

Characteristics of the Female Figure

The female figure is defined most prominently by the bust, the waist, and the hips.

Collarbone

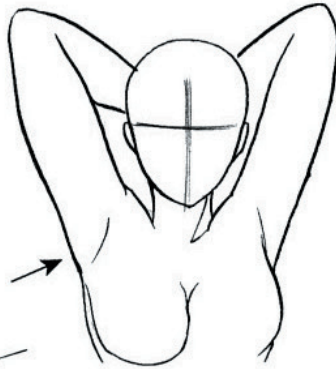
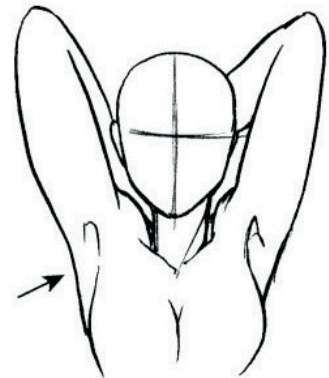
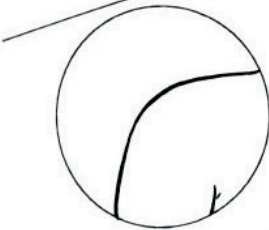
Neck: A thick neck makes the figure look like a small child; for a grown woman, draw a long, slender neck.

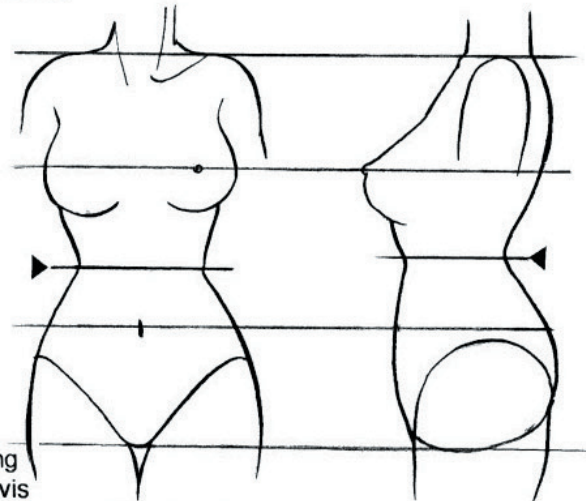
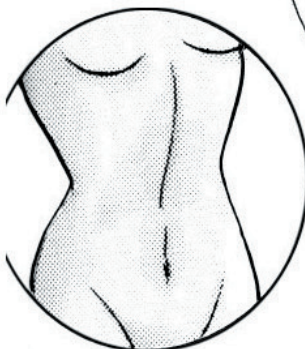
Breasts: Shape, size, position, and preferences among breasts are as varied as their owners. See page 22.

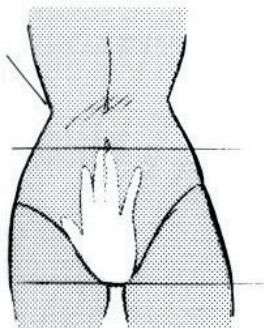
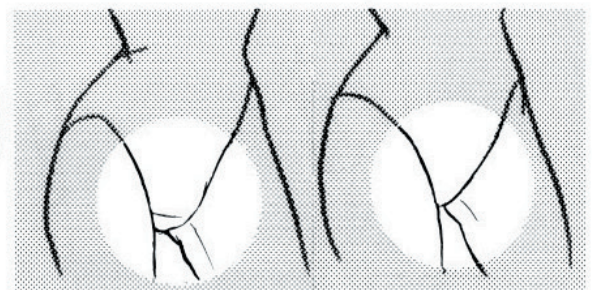
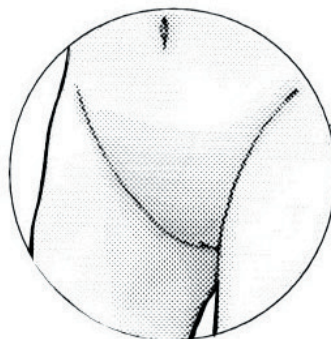
Ribs: A lightly-drawn rib line gives the stomach and torso a trim look (but be careful: if the line is too heavy, it creates a gaunt look).

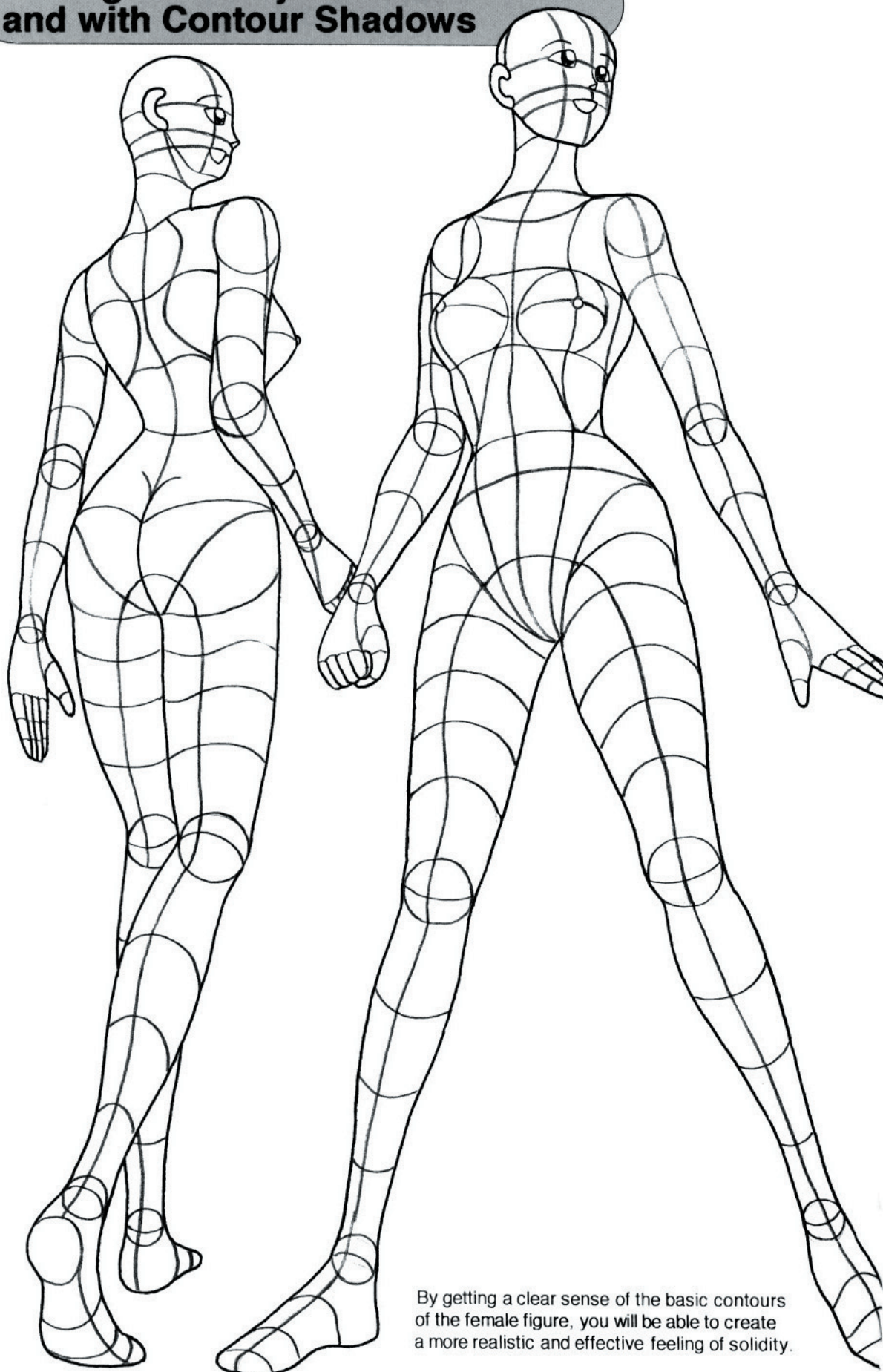
Hips: From the front, the widest part of the hips are determined by the bones.

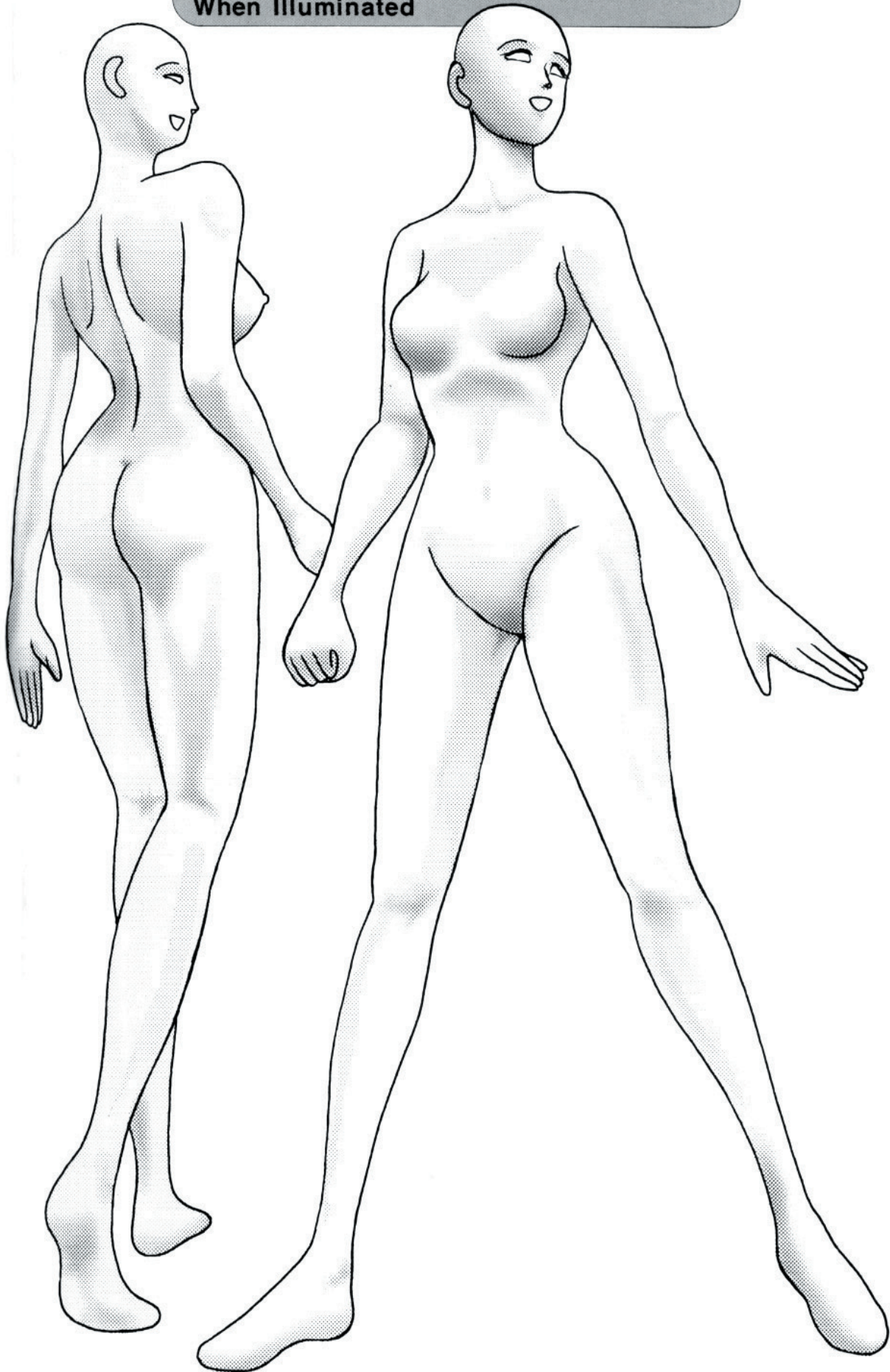
Crotch: There is always a space between the thighs at the crotch even when standing with knees together.

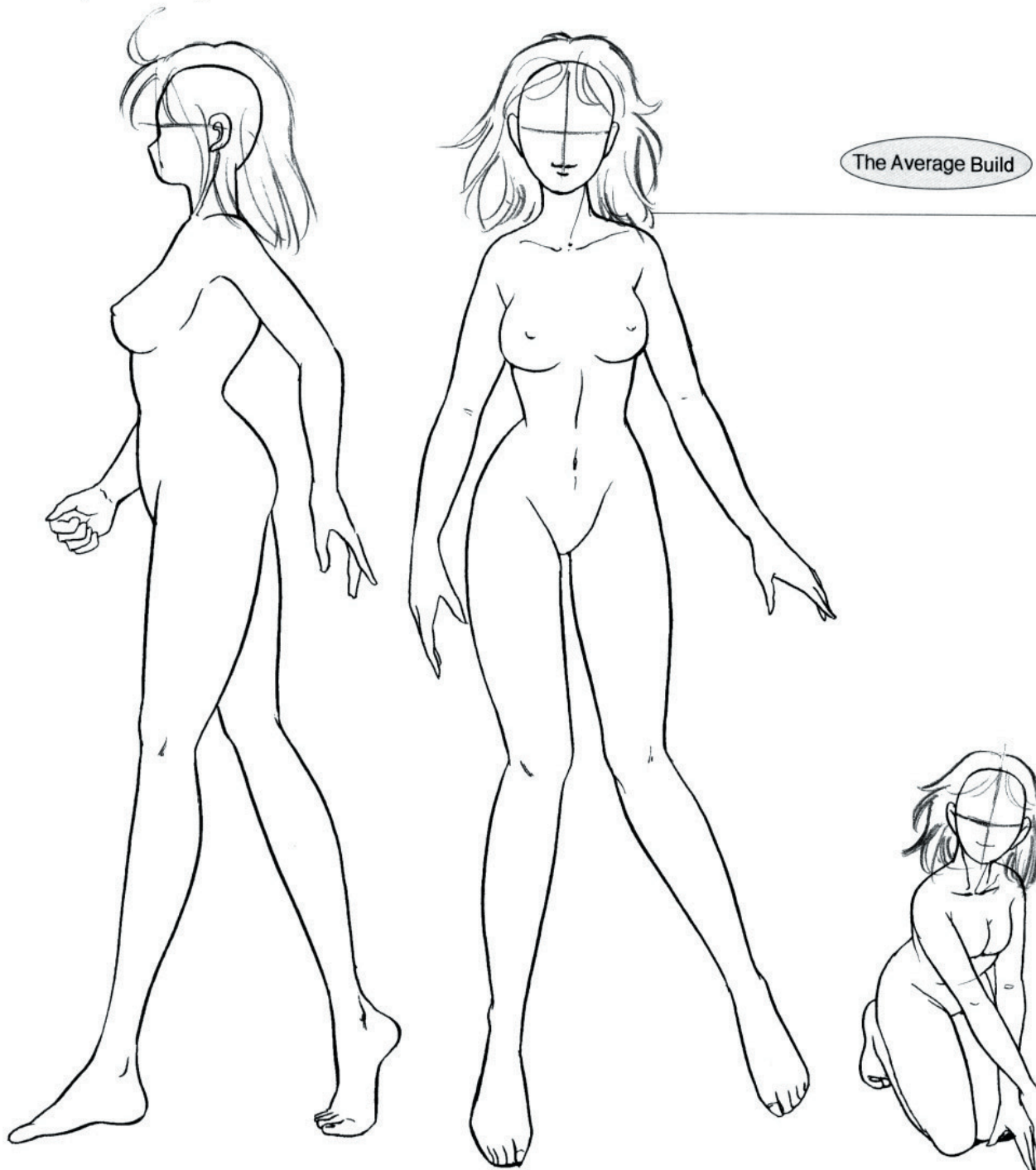
The shoulder, upper arm. and armpit are crucial in showing maturity.

Immature figure: Even when the arms are lifted, a single line is adequate for showing the armpit.

Mature figure: The armpit must be drawn to show three-dimensional contours.

A child's shoulders are simply rounded.

The difference between the tapering of the ribs and the width of the pelvis determines the size of the waist.

Note that the position of the waist is slightly different when viewed from the front and the side.

The line leading down to the navel expresses the subtle curve of the stomach and lower abdomen.

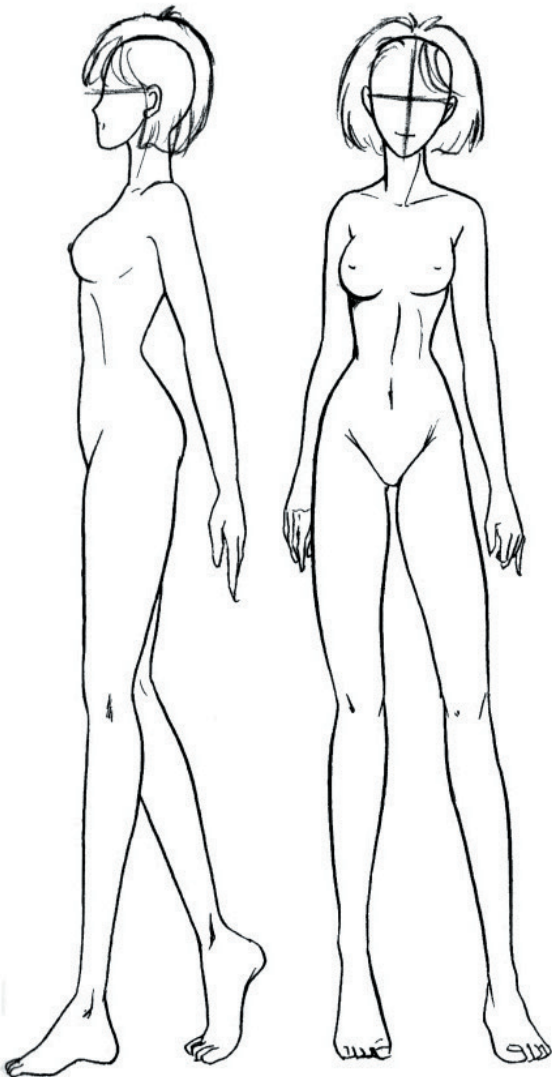
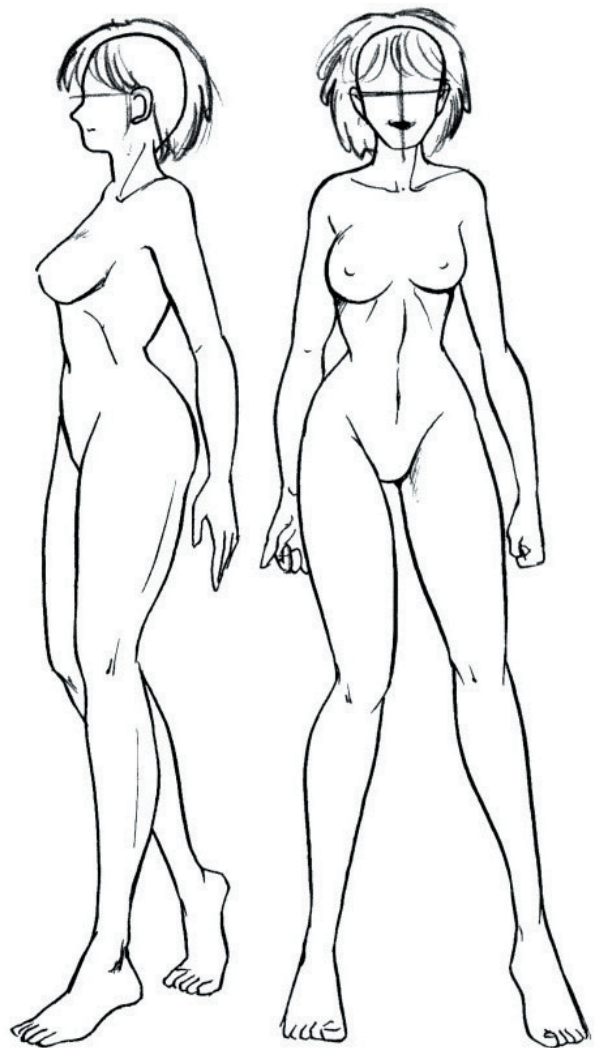
From the navel down to the crotch should appear as a gently rounded curve. You can achieve this impression from the front by applying screentones.

The position of the navel should be a little below the waist and one hand up from the crotch.

The curve of the crotch can be either flat or mounded.

Seeing the Body as a Wire Frame and with Contour Shadows

By getting a clear sense of the basic contours of the female figure, you will be able to create a more realistic and effective feeling of solidity.

Shadows Formed by the Body's Contours When Illuminated

Differentiating Body Types

If you understand how the differences in bone structure and body type affect their proportions, you'll be able to draw a wide variety of female figures.

The Average Figure

- The stomach and lower abdomen are both slightly rounded.
- The chest and body as a whole are curvaceous, and the torso is quite short.
- The shoulders, arms, and legs are all somewhat fleshy; even when the legs and arms are long, they have a fullness to them
- The sides of the chest and hips form a shapely curve.
- The hips are broad.

Slender Build

Athletic Build

The Slender Figure

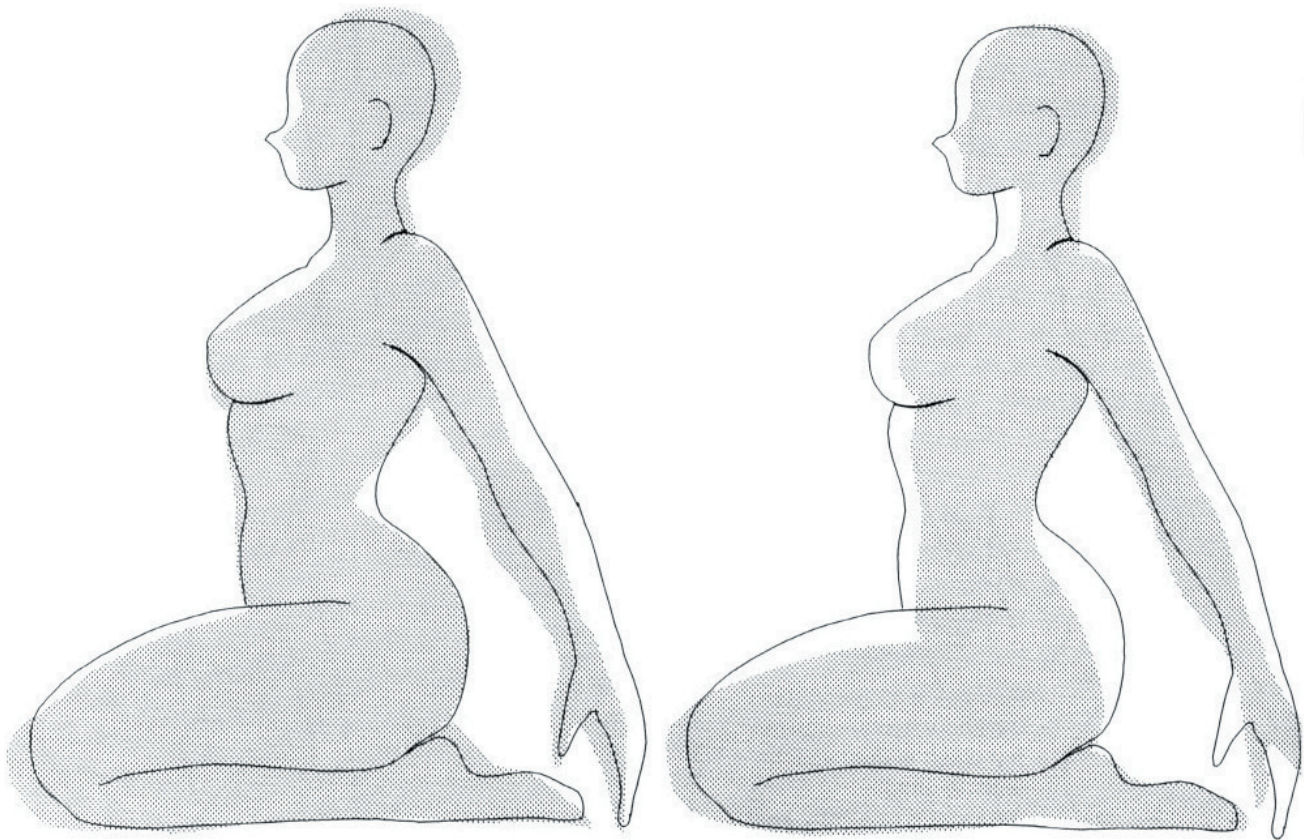
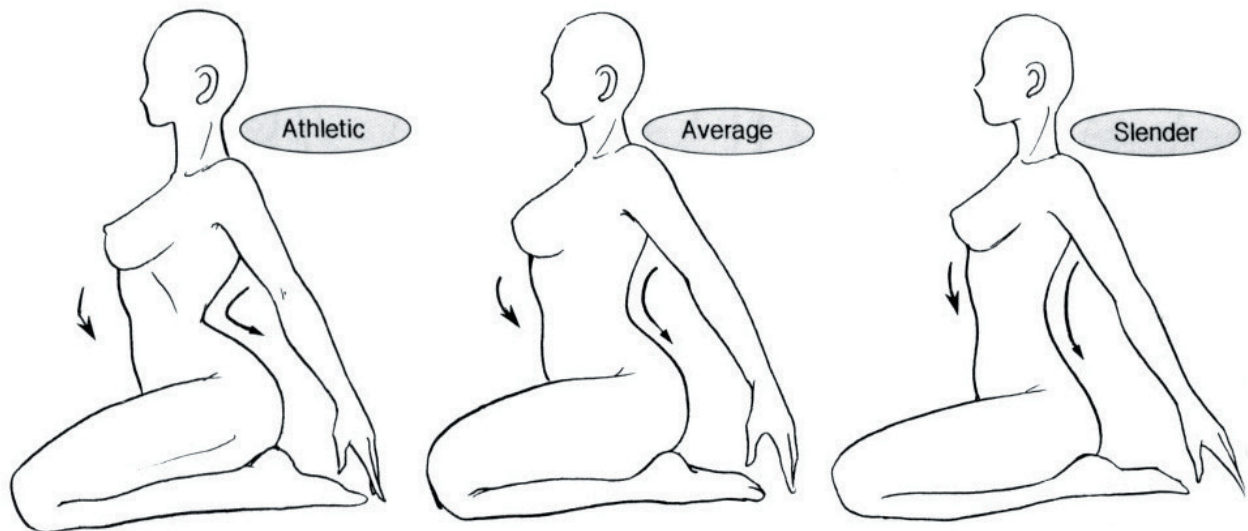
- The neck is long and slim.
- The shoulders are narrow, the chest is thin, and the waist is small.
- The torso is relatively long.
- The arms and legs are long and thin, without excess muscles.
- The sides of the chest and hips form a much gentler curve.

The Athletic Figure

- A prominent breastbone
- Broad shoulders to house well-developed lungs.
- Limbs are drawn more tapered at the elbows and knees, wrists and ankles (but be careful not to overdo it, or you will create a beefy look).
- Although the thighs are thick, the muscles taper at the knee creating the sharpest curve.

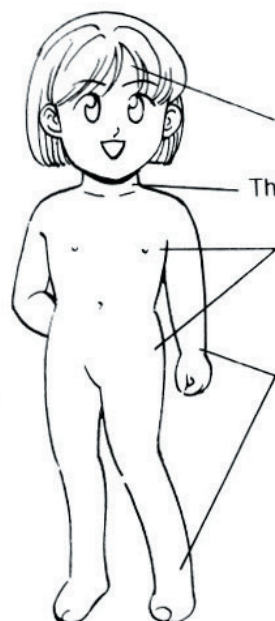
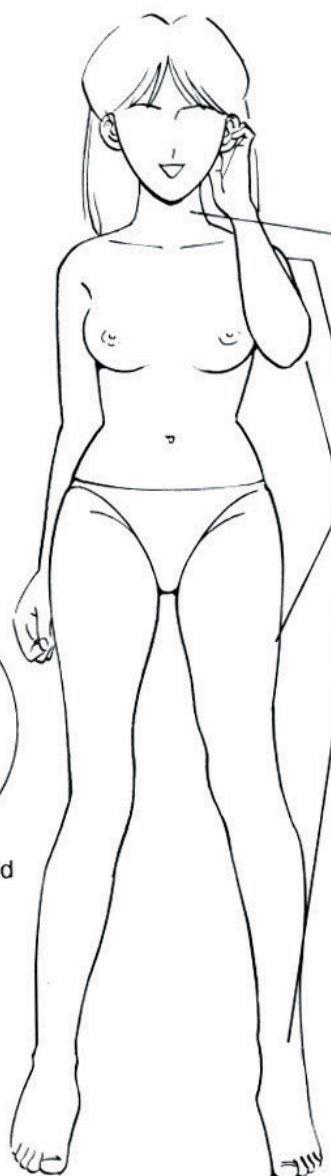
Some Tips for Differentiating the Three Physical Types

The key points to note are:

1. The curve from the back to the hips
2. The line from the shoulder down the arm
3. The rib line below the breast
4. The thickness of the thighs

An athletic figure superimposed on an average figure.

A slender figure superimposed on an average figure.

Differences in Figure According to Age

Finger length represents one of the most prominent differences between the figures of adult and child. Also, for adolescent girls you can create a youthful appearance by drawing the body of an adult, but with more rounded lines overall.

Some Rules of Thumb

	Adult	Adolescent	Child
Age range	18 and up	13 to 17	12 and under
Height by head size	7-8 heads or more	5-7 heads	5 heads or less
Curvature of body	Yes	Some	Almost none
Wrists & ankles	Slender	Average	Thick
Limbs	Long and fully extended	Not fully extended	Not fully extended
Drawing tips	Draw the head small; make wrists and ankles slim.	Draw the pelvis relatively thin; keep arms and legs relatively short.	Draw head large; arms and legs are like sticks.

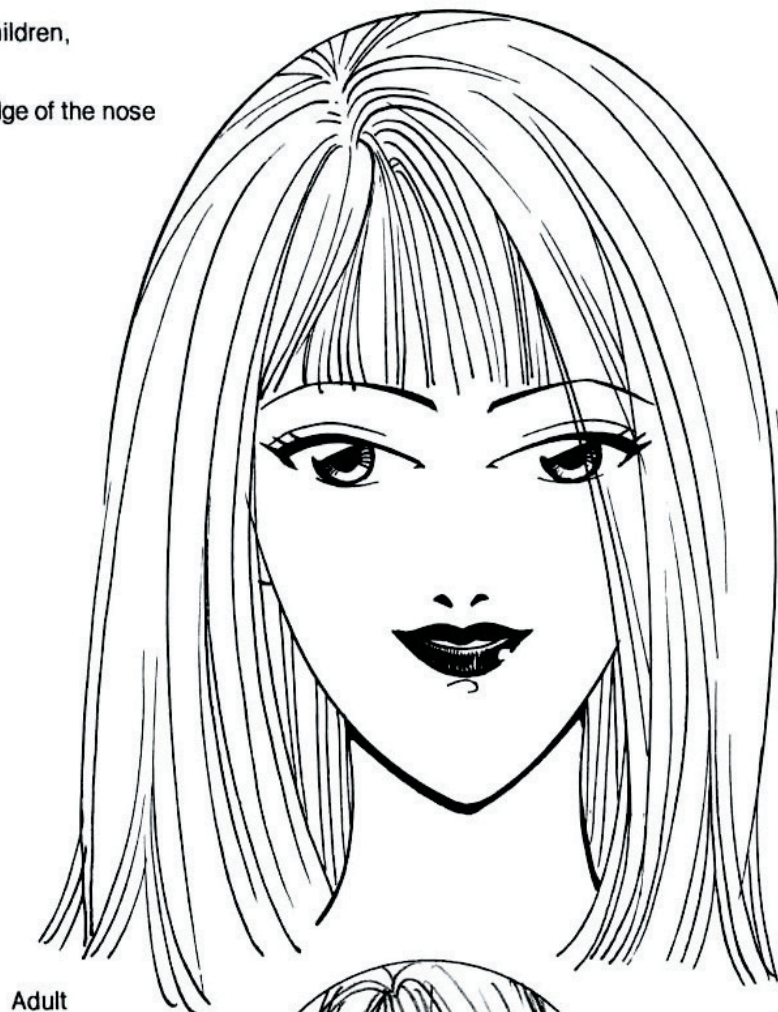
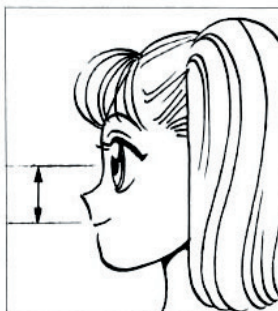
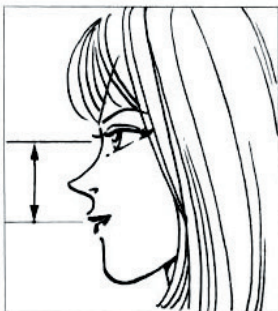
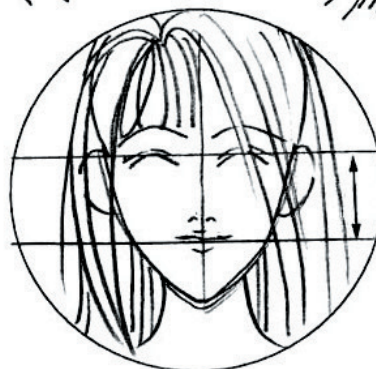
Note: Women in the 18 to 19-year-old range will have elements of both the adult and adolescent figure.

Differences of Face According to Age

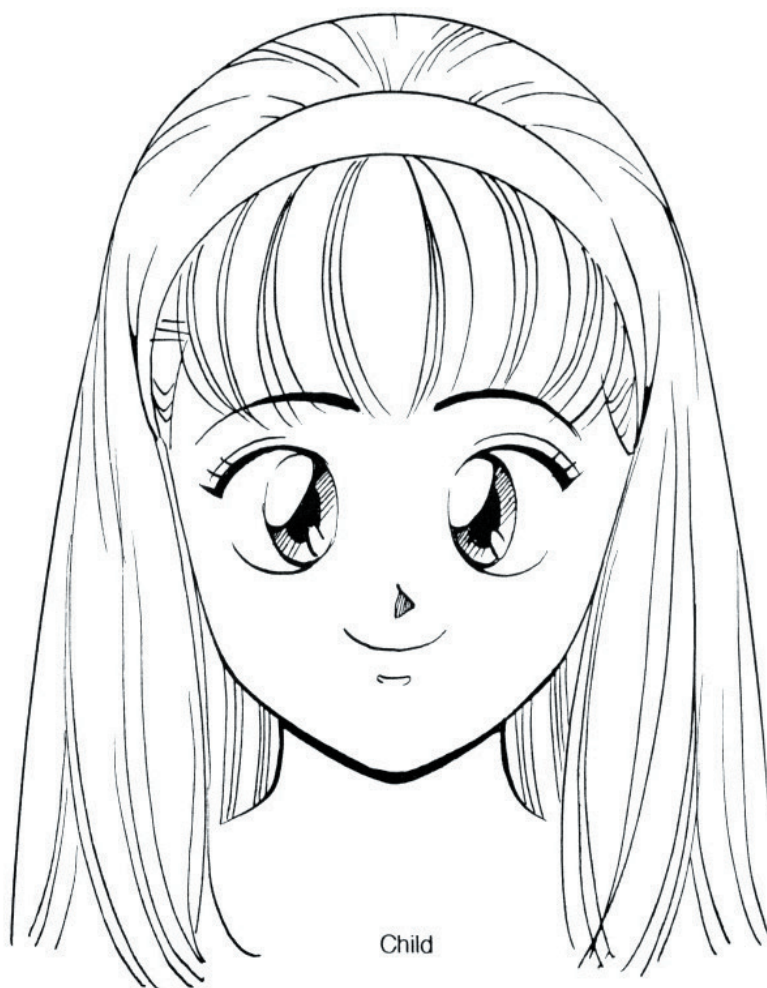
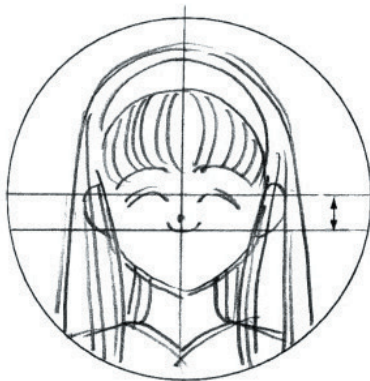
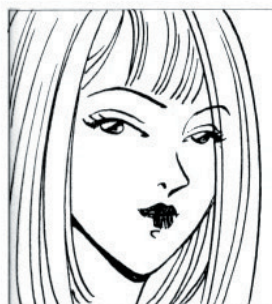
To differentiate the faces of adults and children, pay attention to these two elements:

1. The distance between the eyes and the mouth

2. The bridge of the nose

Profiles in manga-style drawings

Adult

Profiles in illustrator-style drawings

Some Rules of Thumb

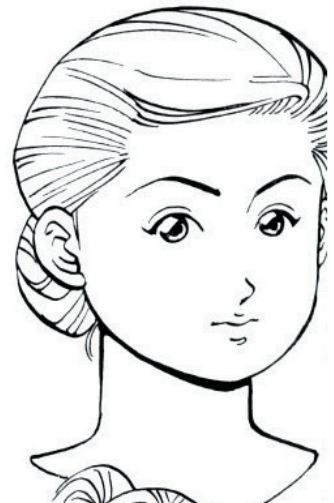
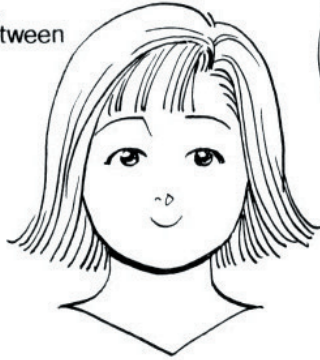
	Adult Features	Child Features
Distance between eyes and mouth	Far apart	Close together
Shape of face	Slightly longer	Round
Eyes	Small	Large
Bridge of nose	Draw clearly	Don't emphasize
Neck	Slender and long	Thick
Head	Small	Large

The Bridge of the Nose From an Angle

By adjusting the distance between eyes and mouth, you can differentiate between an adult and a child with or without the bridge line drawn in.

Drawing a distinct jaw line creates a grown-up effect.

What if you want to draw an older woman with a round face, or a child with a slightly longer face and pointy chin?

A grown woman with a round face

1. Keep the eyes small.
2. Maintain distance between eyes and mouth.

A child with a grown-up face.

- For a somewhat baby-faced look, make the eyes larger.
- Round faces tend to look too large, so it helps to reduce the amount of hair.

1. Draw large eyes.
2. Tighten the distance between eyes and mouth.
3. Minimize the nose.
4. Make the head larger by giving more volume to the hair.

- Smaller eyes always make the face look more grown-up.
- It also helps to draw large ears and make the neck short and thick.

A Grown Woman with a Round Face

In order to make a woman with a round face, large eyes, and big hair look more grown-up:

1. Give her a long neck, and draw in the collarbone.
2. Draw her figure to adult proportions.

3. Broaden the shoulders and use other means to make the head look smaller.

Chapter 2

Drawing the Female Figure: The Parts of the Body

True-to-Life vs. Manga

What to Exaggerate and What to Simplify

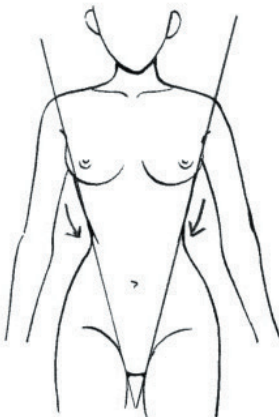
When using a photograph or other model for your drawing, exaggerate or simplify various aspects of the model to create a figure that suits your own taste.

Tip #5: The neck

Draw the neck longer and slimmer than the model. At some angles a longer neck may look odd, though, so care is needed.

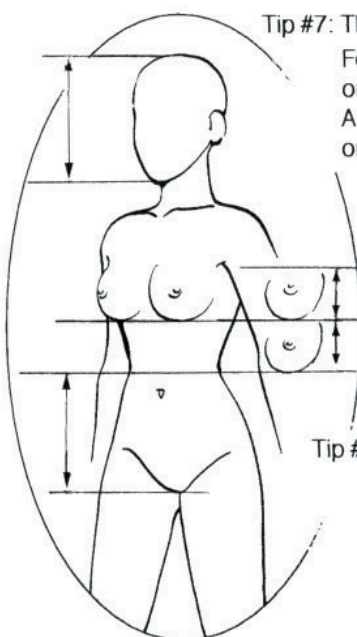
The Back

The contour of the back includes many bumps and dips, but normally only the following need be drawn:

1. Lines for the spine and shoulder blades
2. The buttocks

Tip #6: Taper the waist sharply

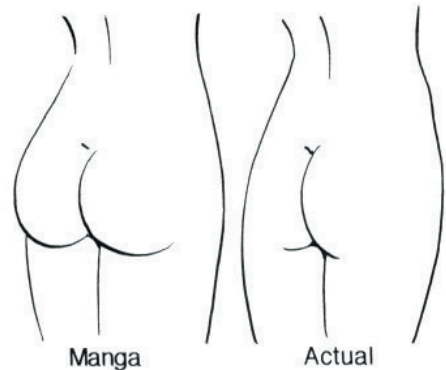
The angle from armpit to waist will often leave the figure waistless if drawn realistically, so it almost always calls for exaggeration. Follow imaginary lines drawn from the armpits to the crotch.

Back Tip #1: Creases

Many creases tend to form around the neck and shoulder blades as well as at the waist, but you should omit most of them for a prettier back.

Tip #7: The position of the waist

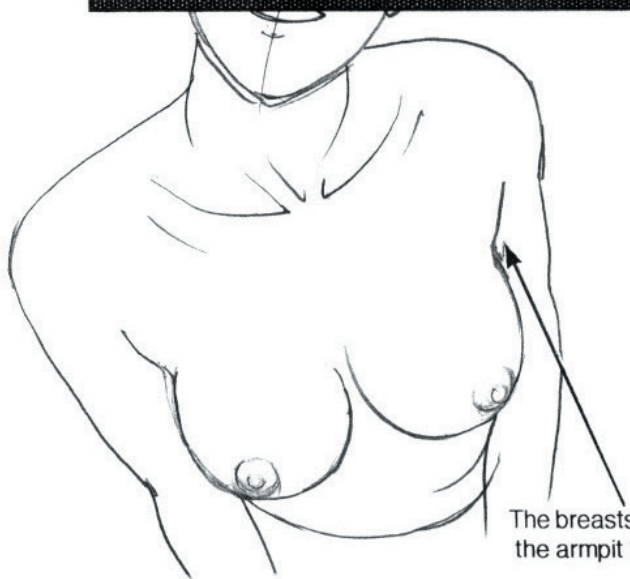
For the cutest look place the waist about one breast-height below the breasts. A more realistic distance is about one head below the breasts.

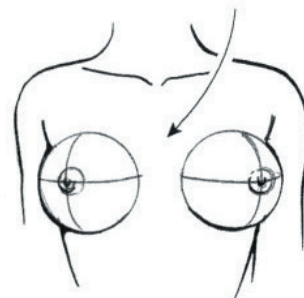
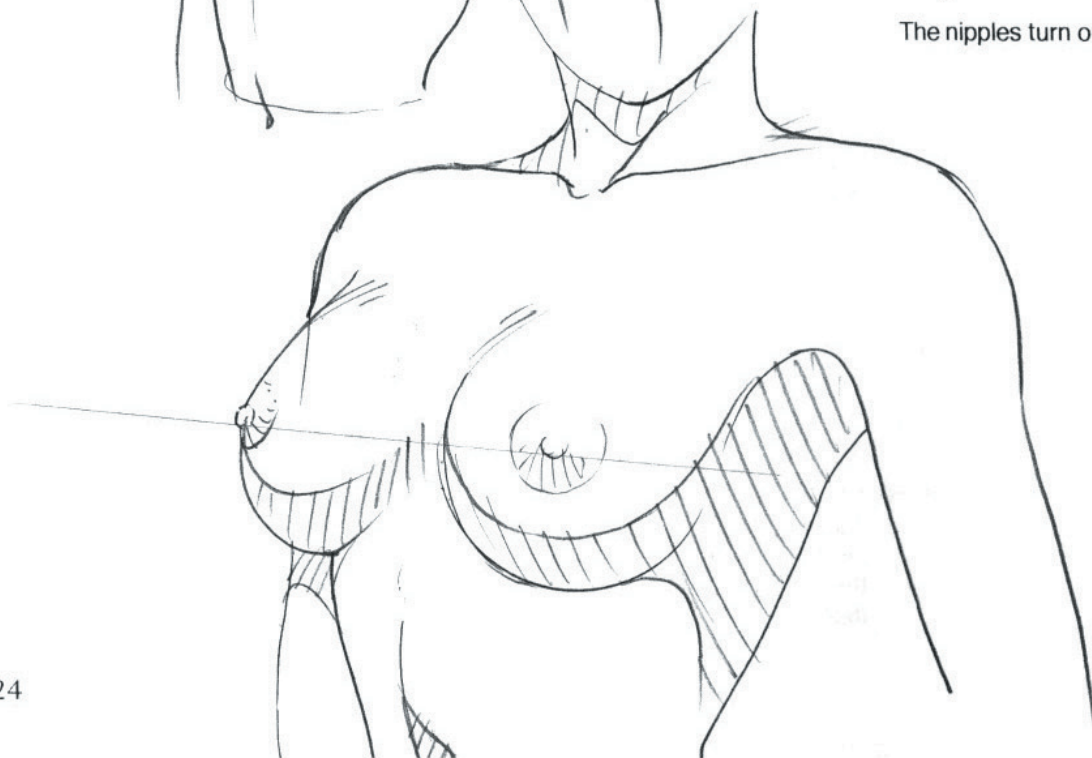
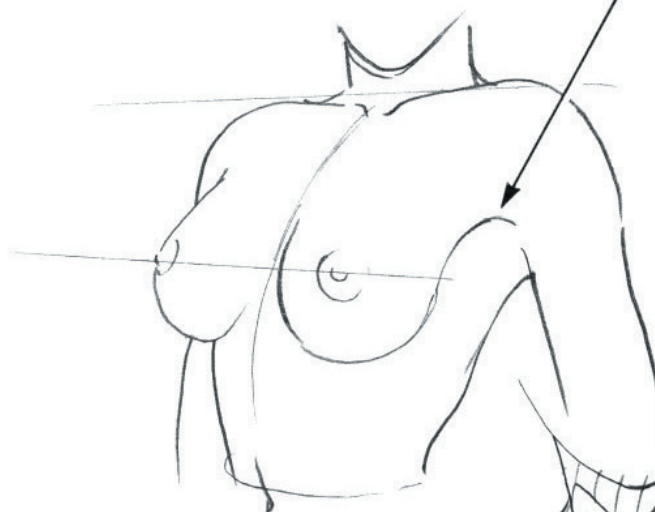
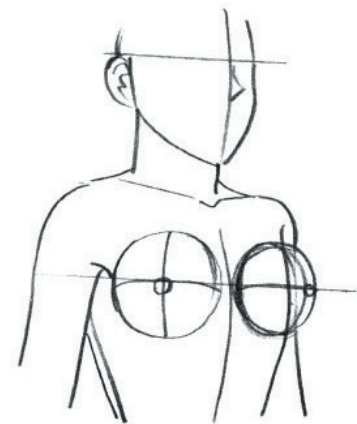
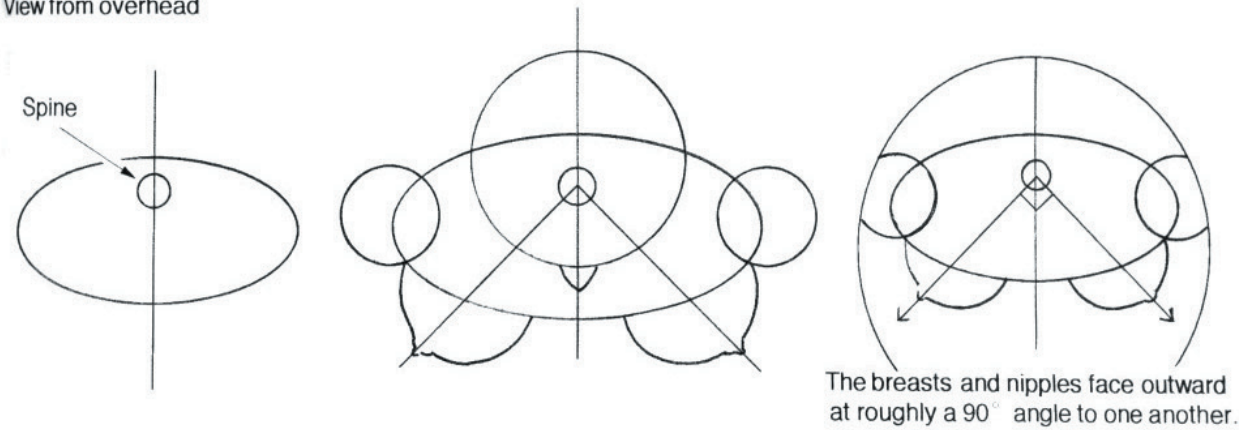
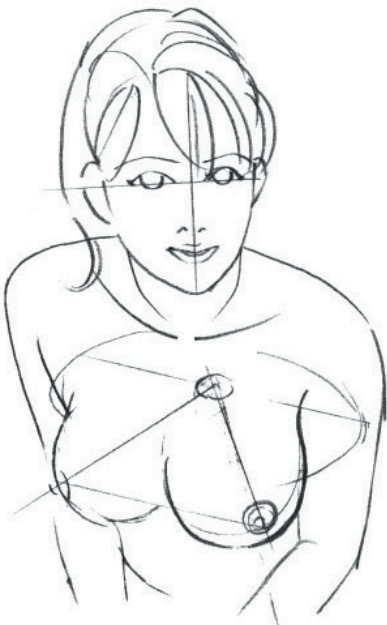
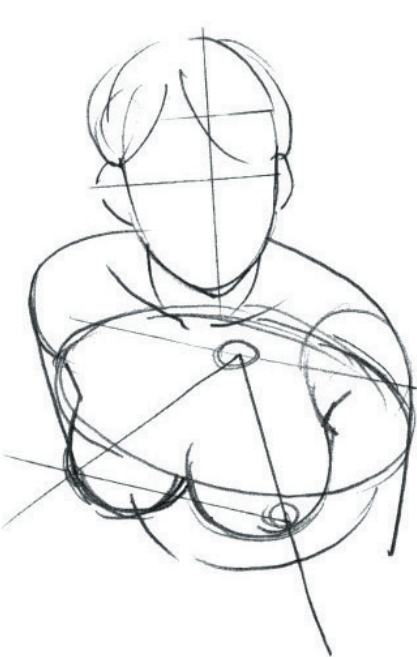
Tip #8: The distance from waist to crotch

The waist and crotch are normally about one head apart. If this distance is too short, the hips/pelvis will look too slight and the figure unbalanced.

Back Tip #2: The buttocks

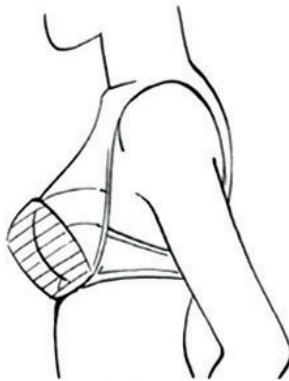
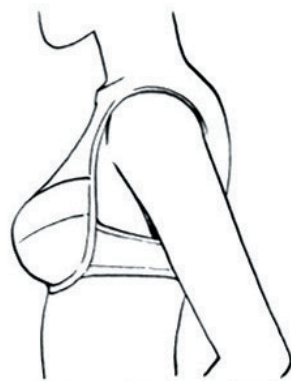
A simple standing pose cannot fully illustrate manga-style buttocks. See page 38.

The Breasts

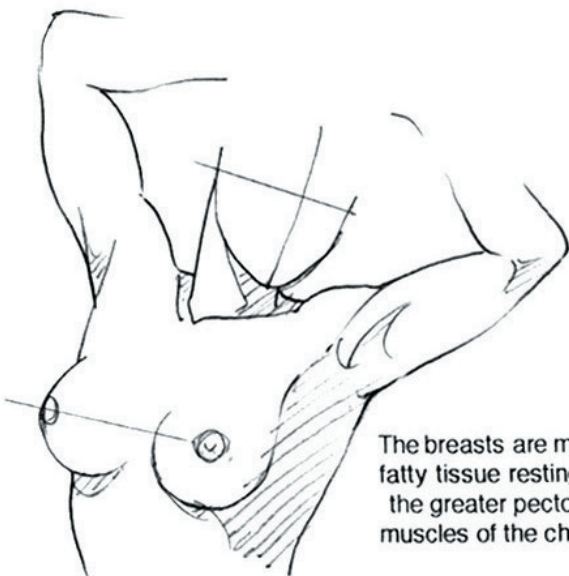
The Structure of the Breasts, and How They Attach

The breasts grow directly from the armpit line.

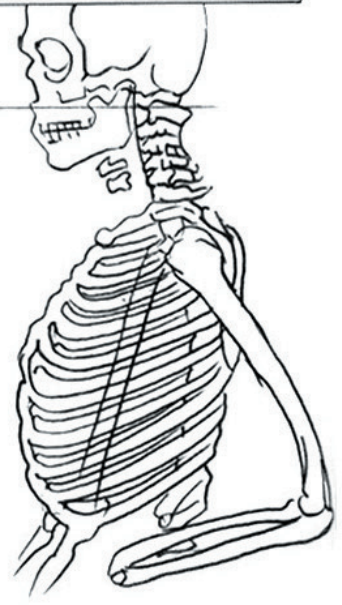
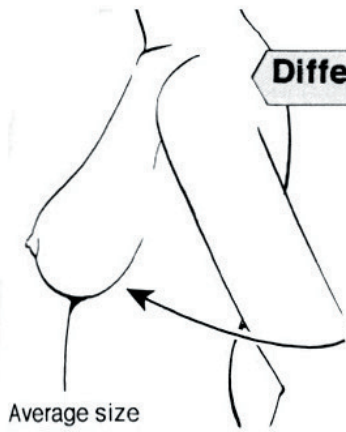
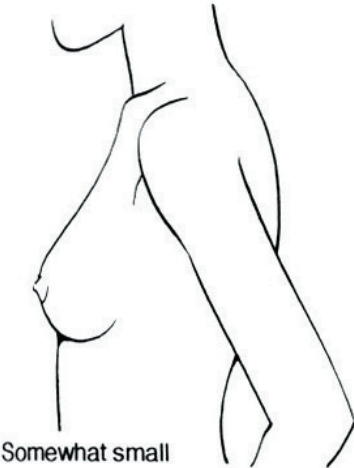
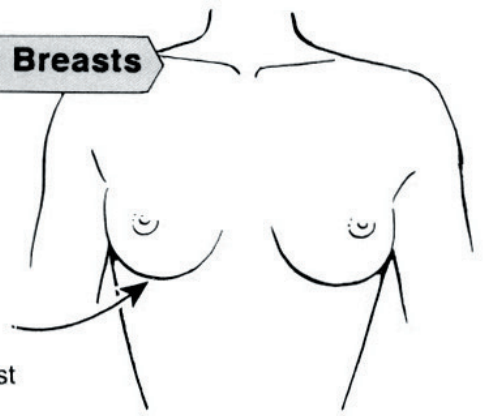
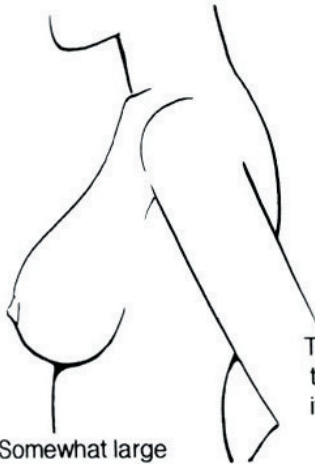
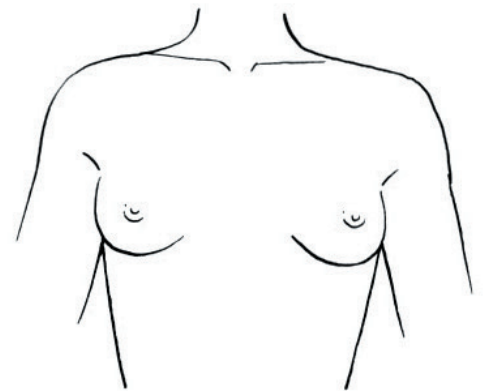
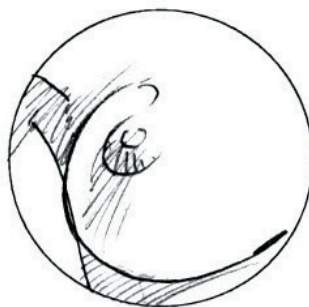
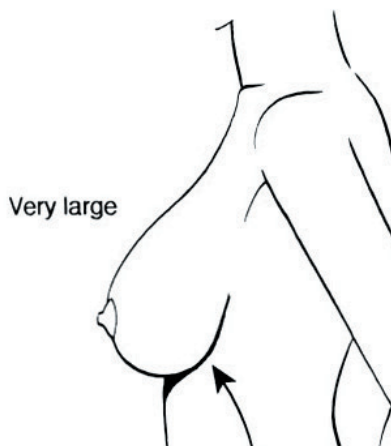
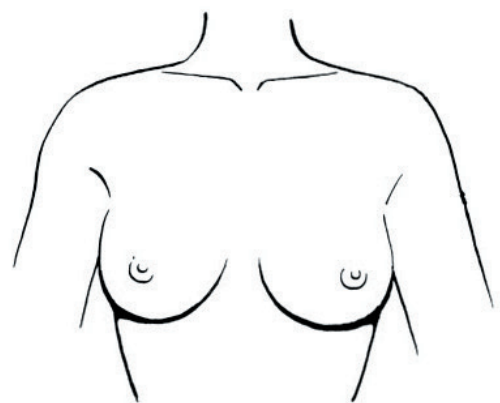
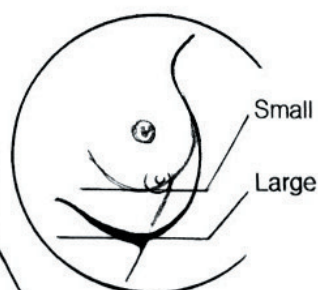
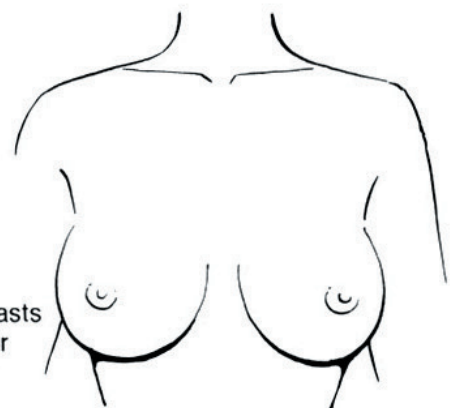
There is a space between the breasts.

The nipples turn outward.

View from overhead
Spine
The breasts and nipples face outward at roughly a 90° angle to one another.
In 3/4 view, one breast faces straight forward.

Profile Views

Because breasts are soft and pliable, you can achieve very different effects by how you dress the figure.

Bound tight with muslin

Enhanced

Clothing that accentuates size and shape

Bra-less

The Rib Cage and the Breasts

The muscular structure of the armpit

The breasts are made of fatty tissue resting atop the greater pectoral muscles of the chest.

Differentiating the Size of the Breasts

Breasts of Different Shapes

In general, breasts fall into three basic shapes, but countless variations are possible among them.

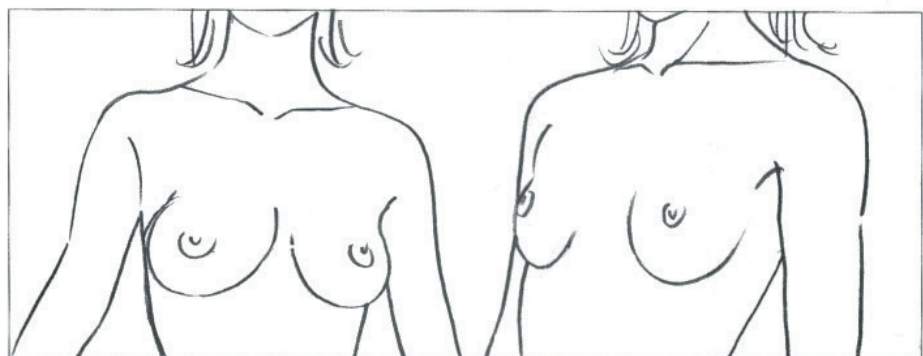
Cup

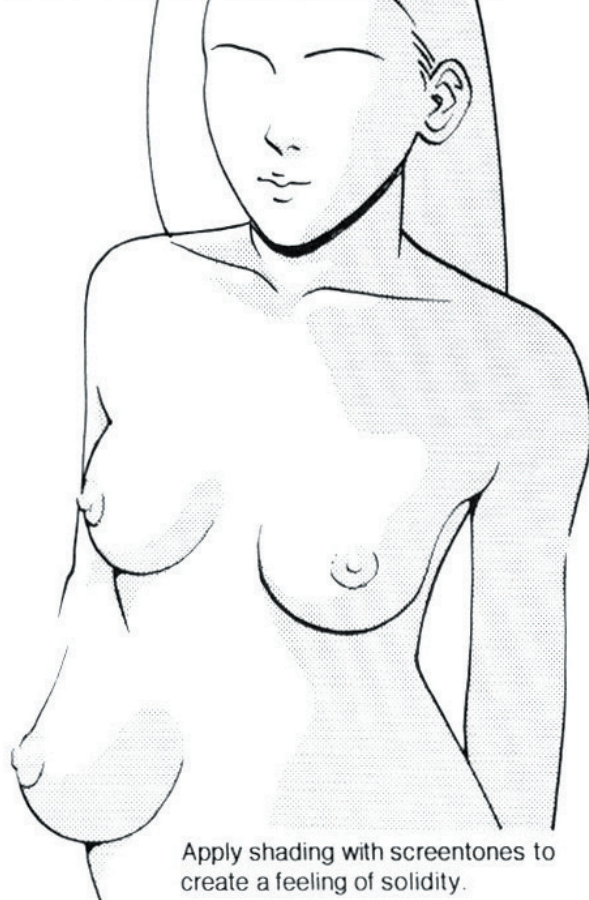
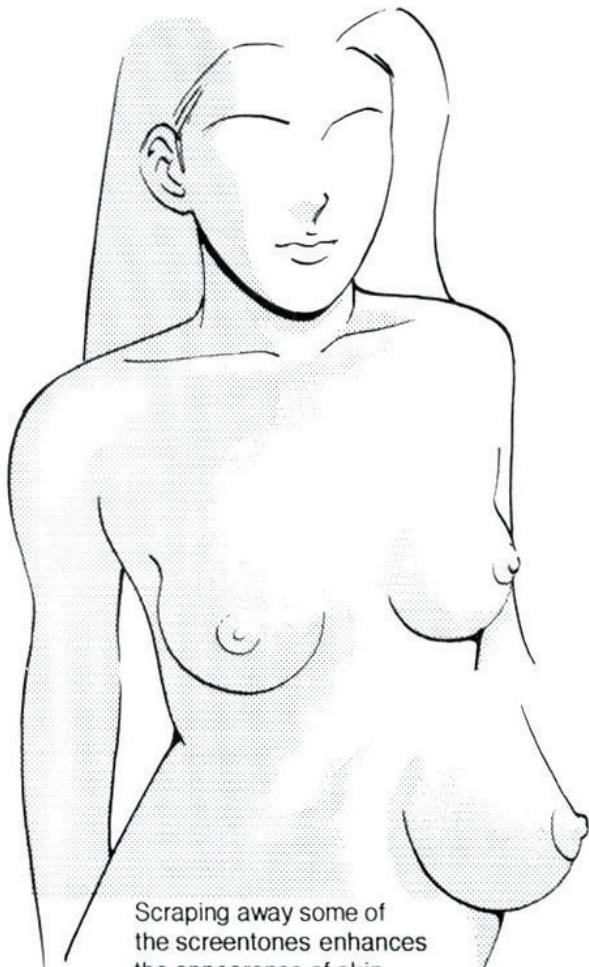
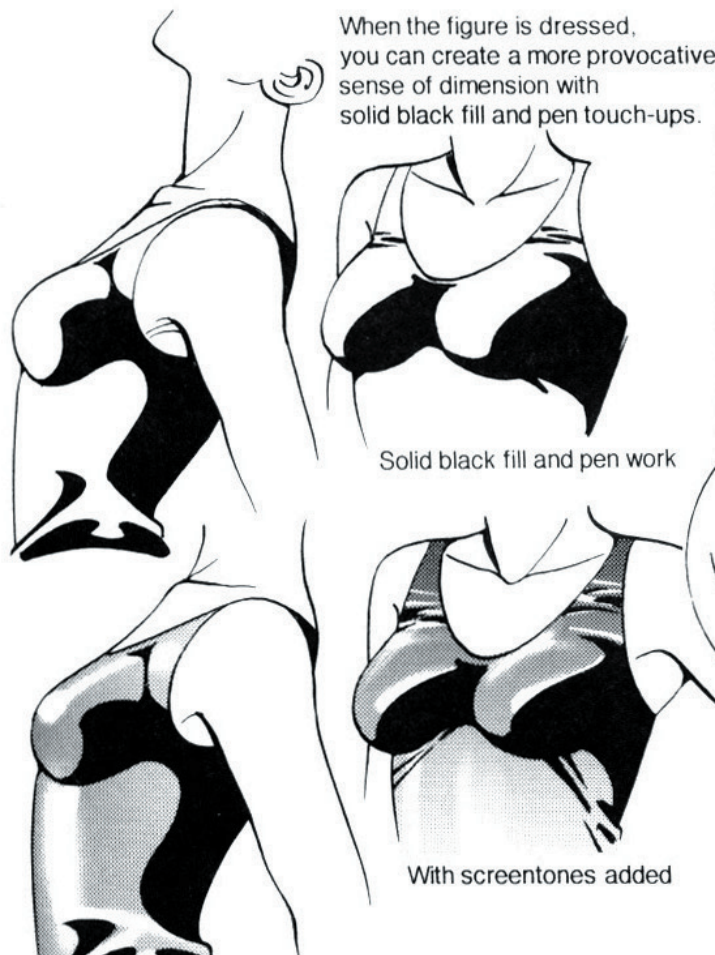
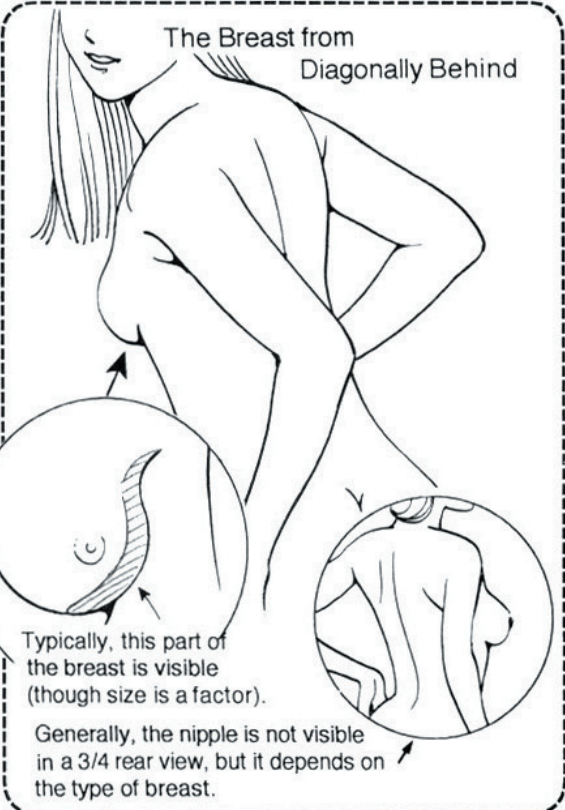
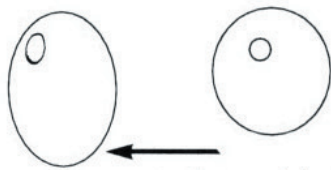
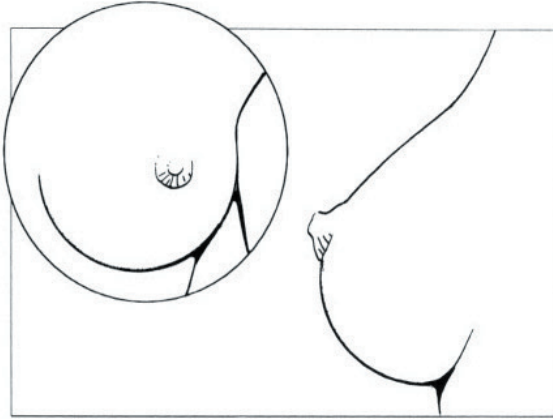
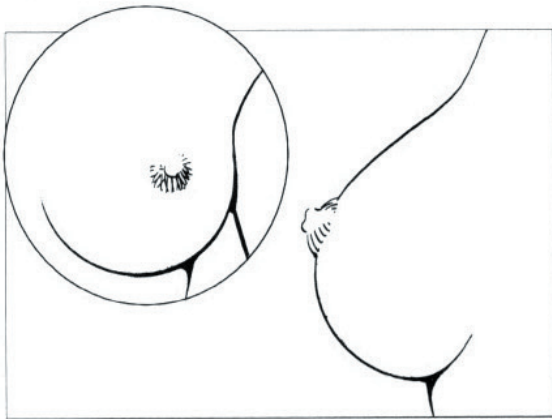
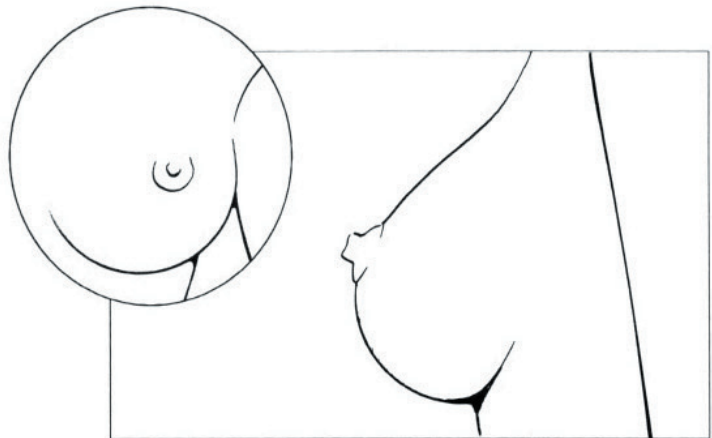
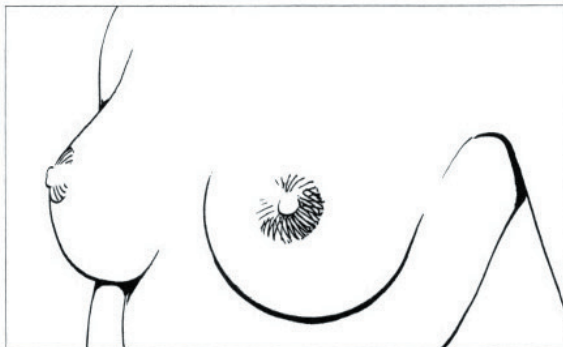
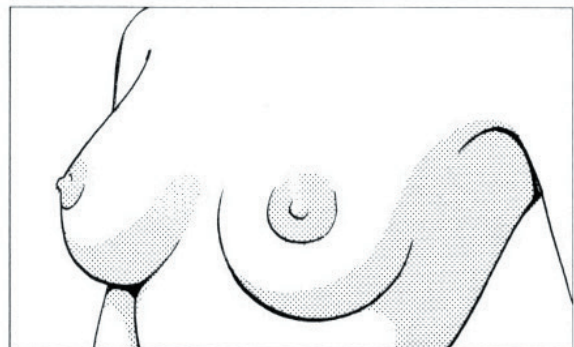
Bell

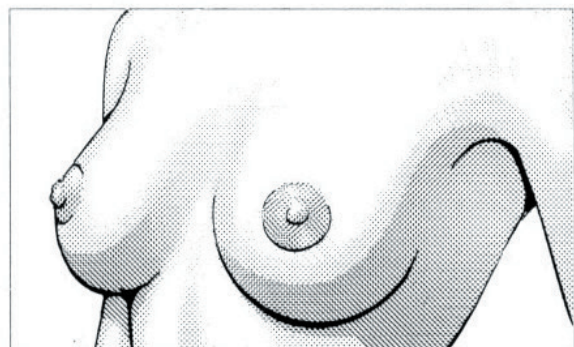
Bowl

The Posision of the Breasts

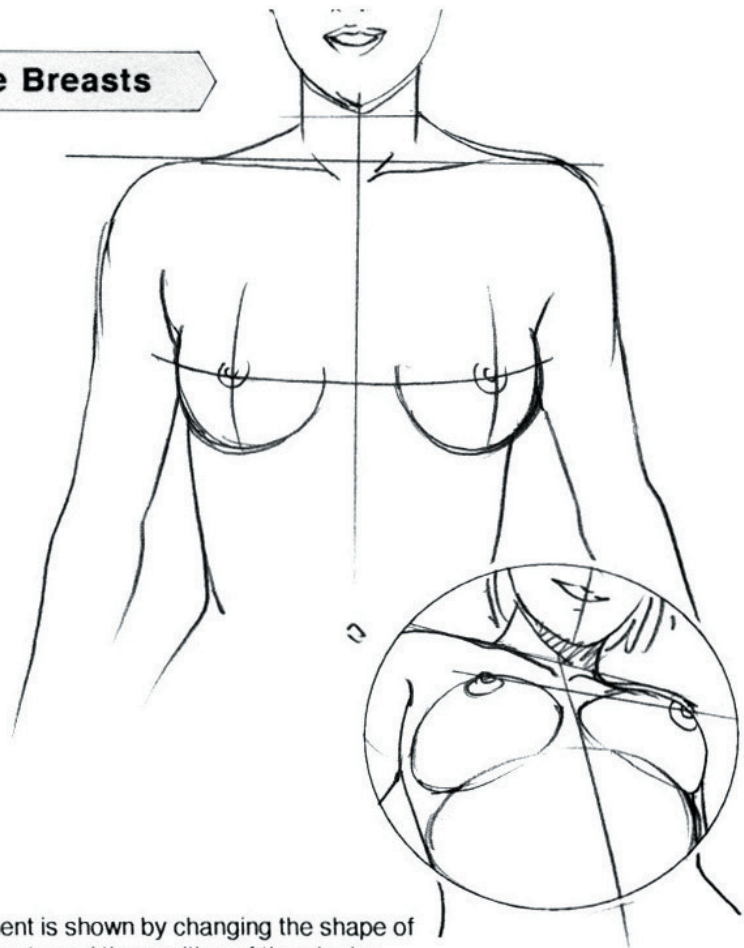
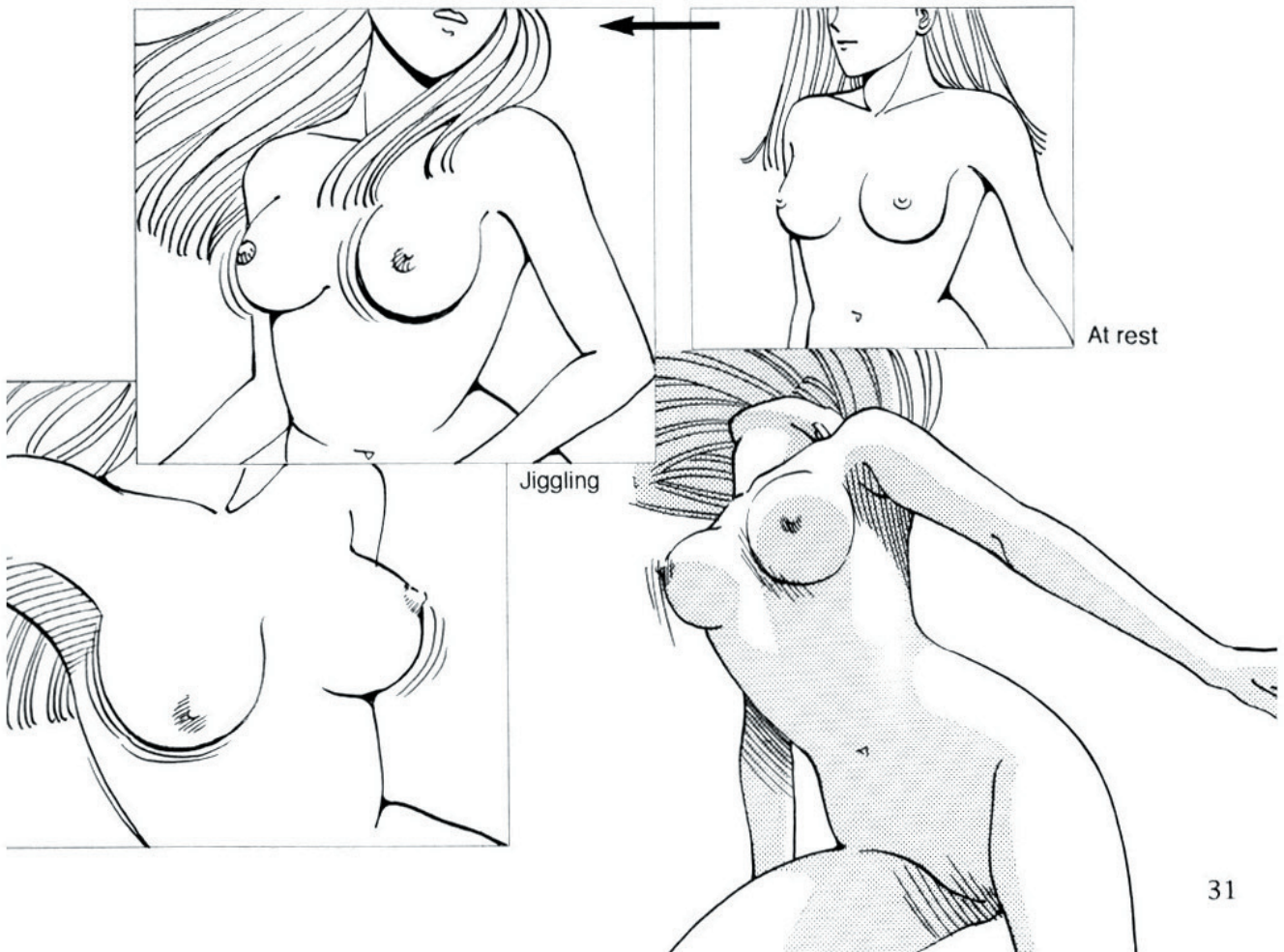
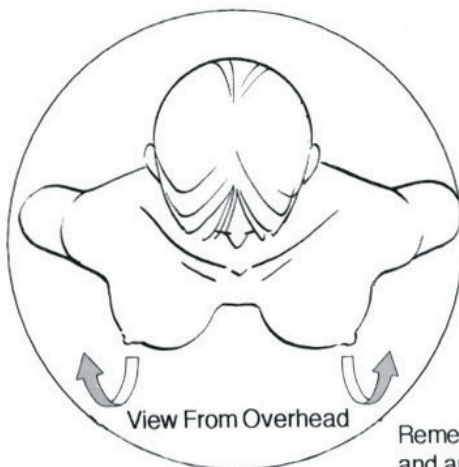
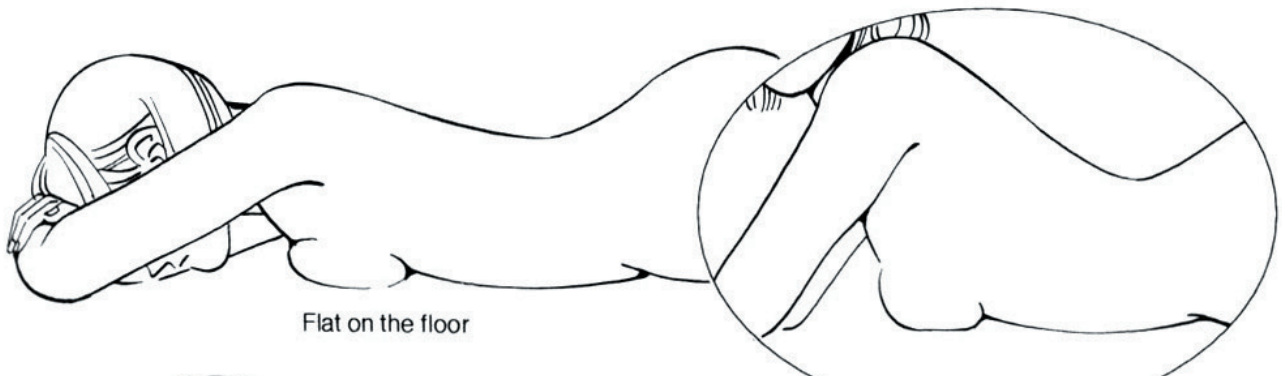
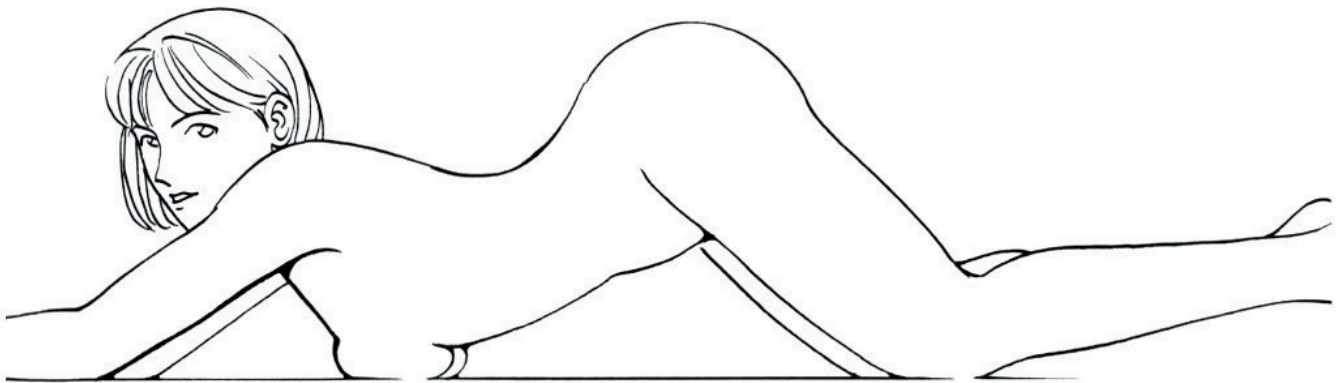
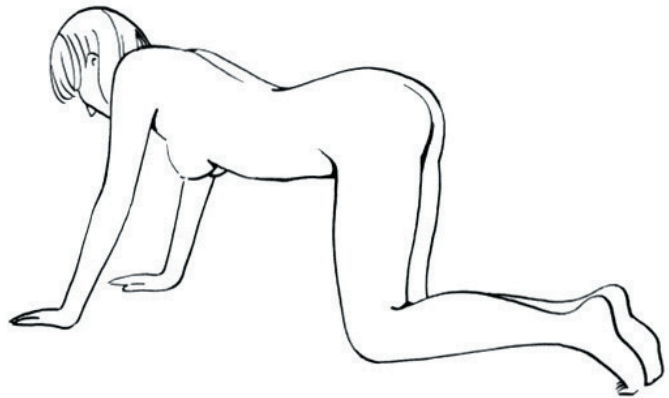
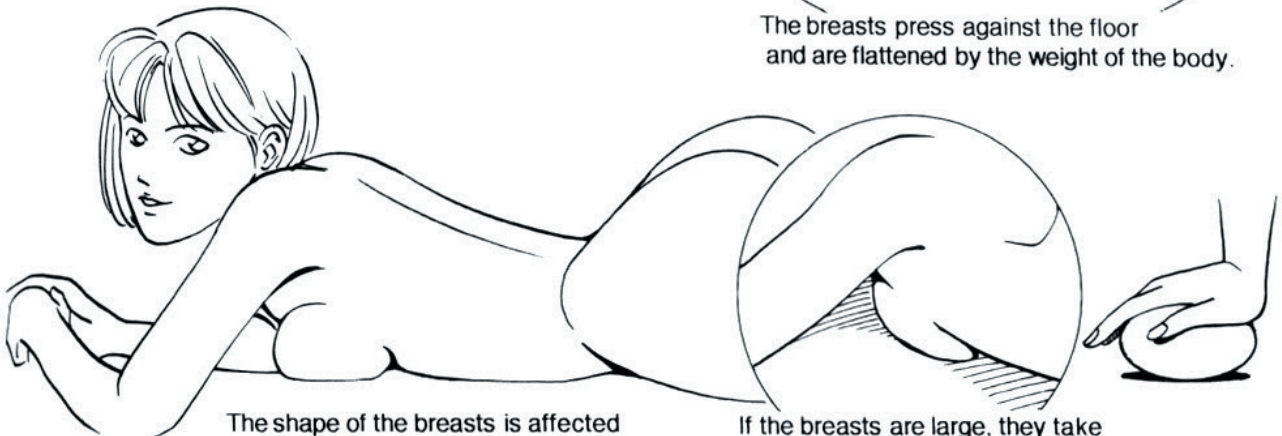
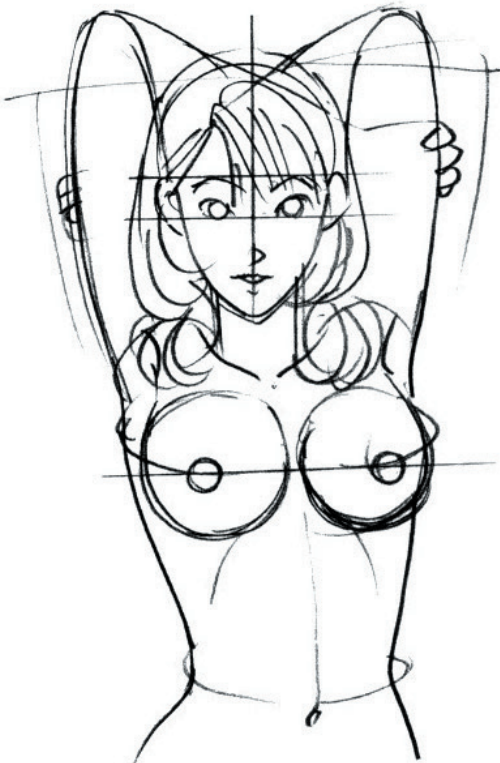
The impression created varies greatly by how the breasts are positioned.

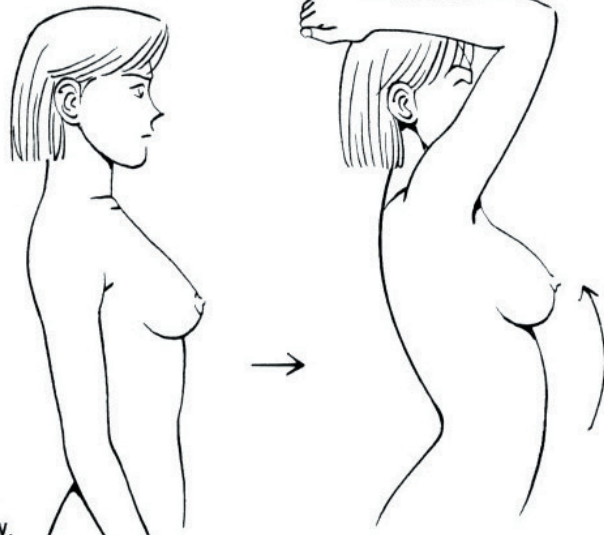
Breasts that are predominant among Westerners

Breasts that are predominant among Asians

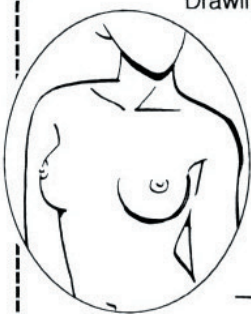
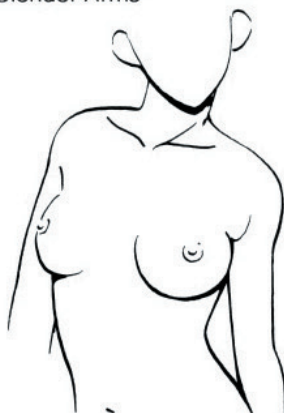
Creating a Sense of Solidity

The Nipple and the Areola

Since the areola is in effect a circle drawn on a sphere, it must be drawn with care in order to maintain proper perspective. When the areola will be toward the side, draw a circle on a ball first to see exactly what shape it needs to be on paper.

Some Examples

Pen work only

Pen work combined with screentones, handled with relative simplicity.

Screentones only, without any pen work.

Combining pen work and layered screentones gives the drawing more dimension and makes the nipple and areola appear more real.

Showing Movement of the Breasts

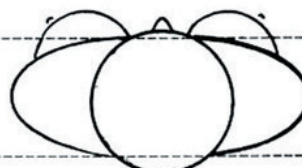
The nipples are generally at the same height on both sides, so they provide useful reference points when blocking out your drawing or determining the position of the breasts.

Movement is shown by changing the shape of the breasts and the position of the nipples.

Bending Forward

From On All Fours to Lying Face Down

How Moving the Shoulders and Arms Affects the Shape of the Breasts

When the arms are raised, the muscles in the chest are also pulled upwards, and the breasts change shape.

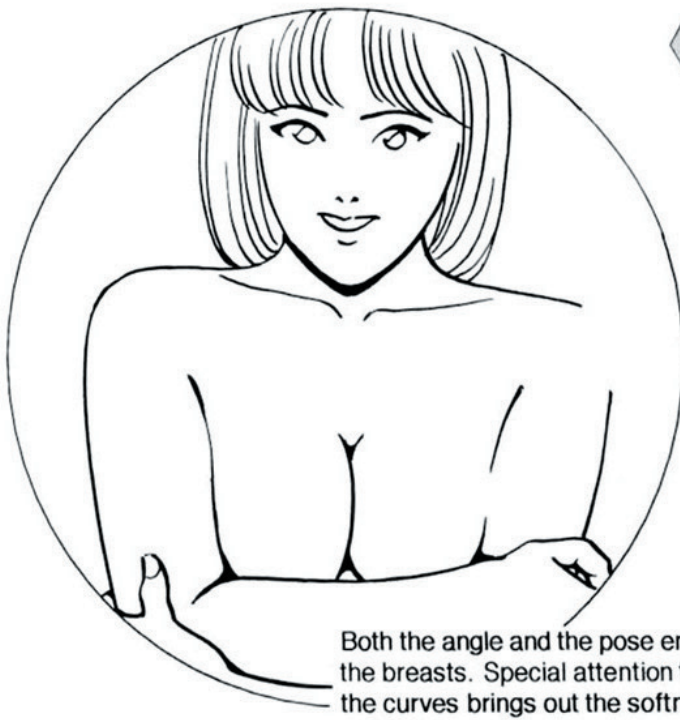
With arms raised, the chest thrusts forward.

Subtle differences between when the arms are down and when they are raised can be seen clearly in side view.

Drawing Slender Arms

When a figure is given broad shoulders, the arms also tend to grow thicker.

To draw slender arms, tighten up the shoulder muscles and reduce the height between shoulder and armpit.

When drawing a figure with raised arms, keep the upper torso relatively thin.

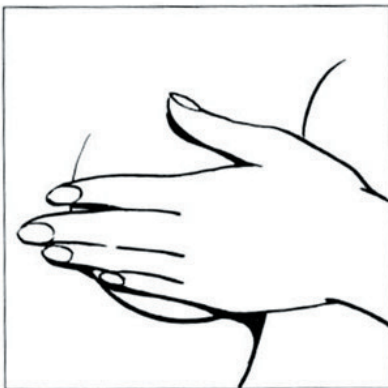
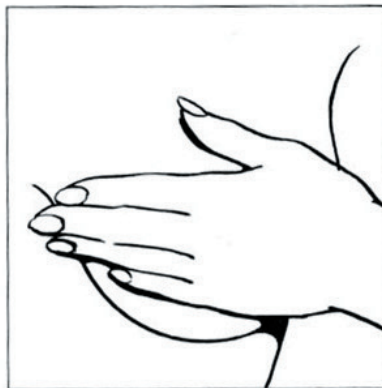
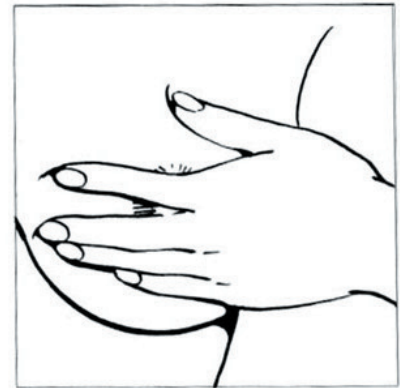
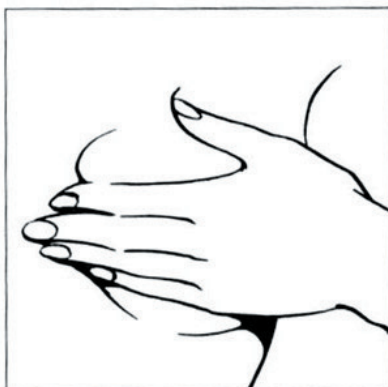
A slender upper torso that gives a more muscular impression

The Shape of the Breasts When Lying Face Up

Effects You Can Achieve With the Breasts

The Differences in Line

Both the angle and the pose emphasize the breasts. Special attention to the curves brings out the softness and fullness of the breasts

Thin, even-width lines.

The heavier lines of a felt-tipped pen.

Covering or Holding a Breast

A small breast covered with a hand

A larger breast

Nipple peeking slightly through the fingers

A small breast held firmly

Flesh pressing between the fingers shows the fullness of the breast.

Shift the position of the nipple to show softness or forceful manipulation of the breast.

Squeezing the Breasts Together

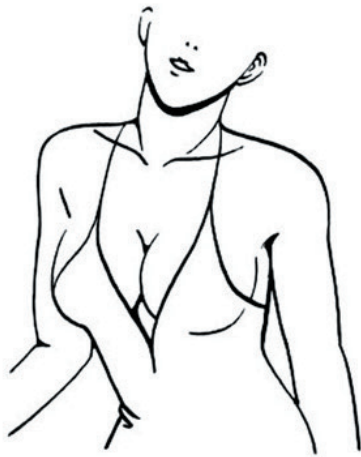
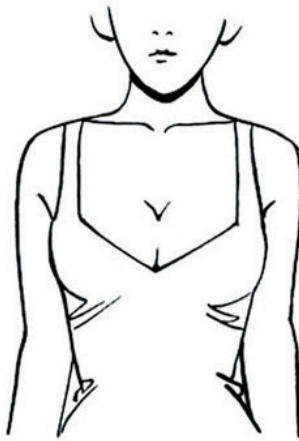
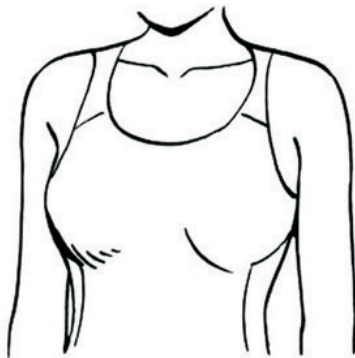
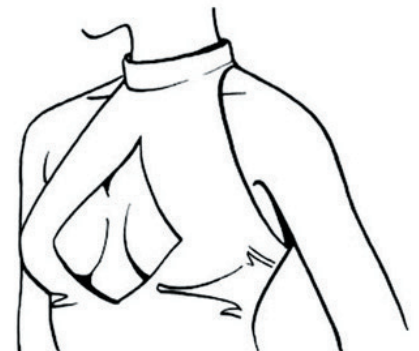
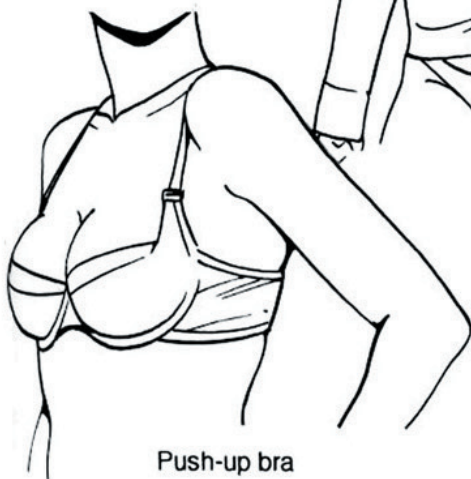
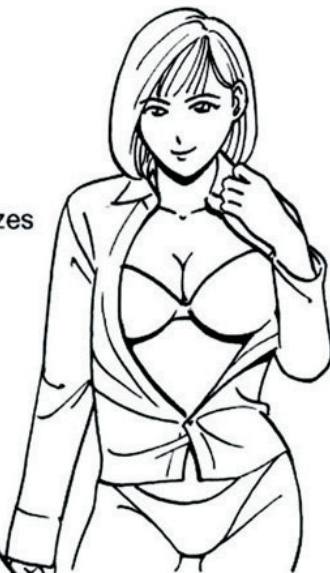
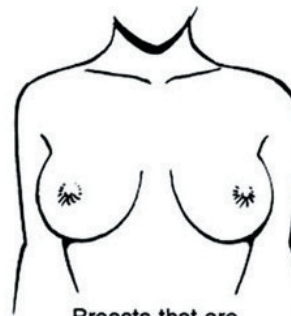
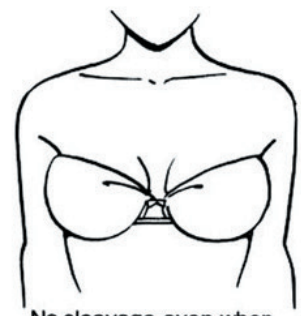
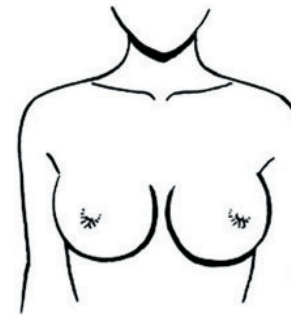
Bust Line Fashion Statements

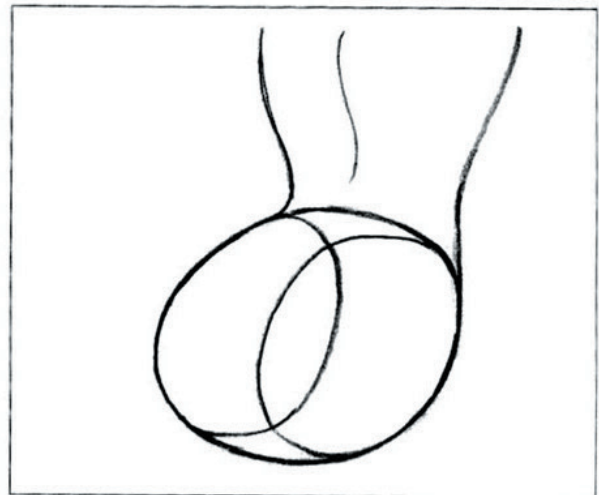
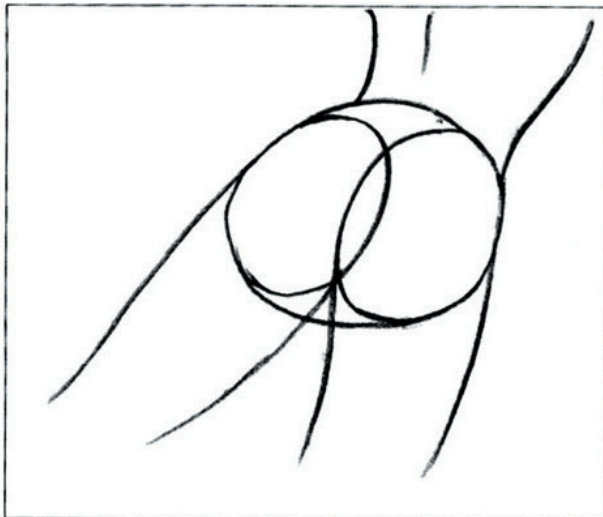
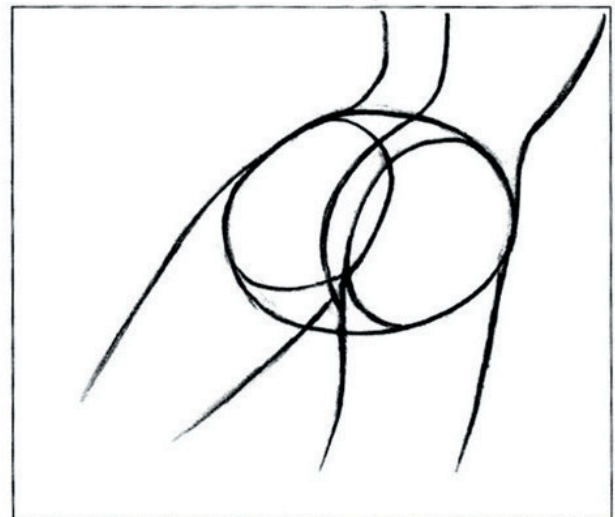
Styles of Neckline

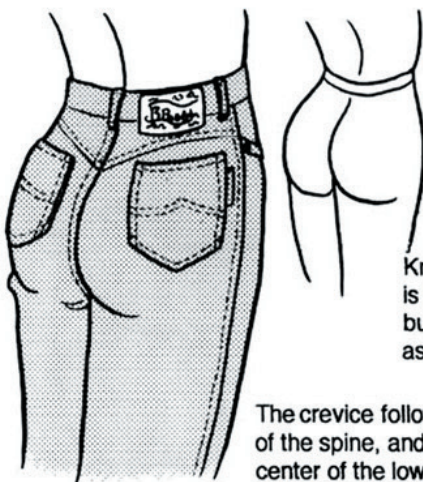
Other Styles

The Buttocks

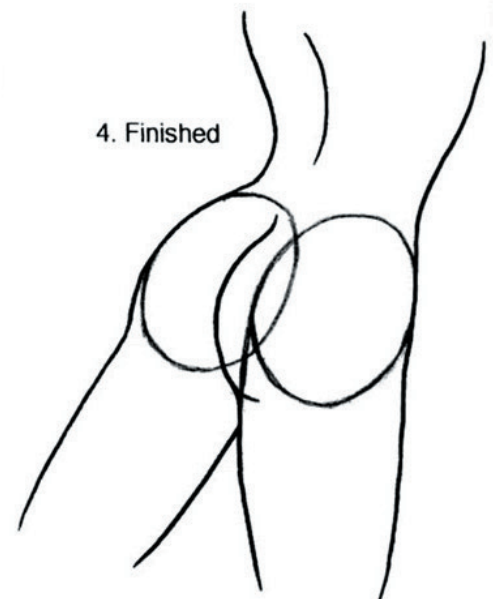
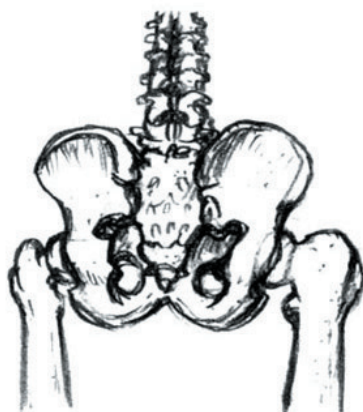
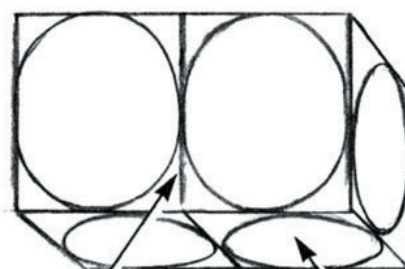
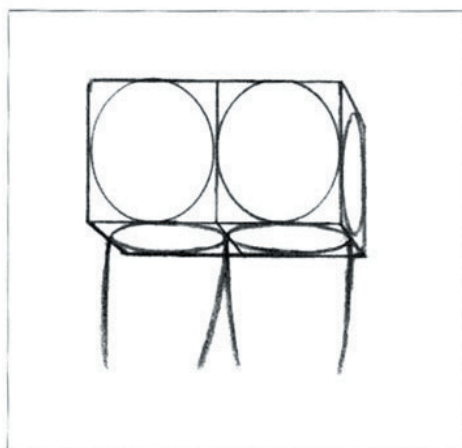
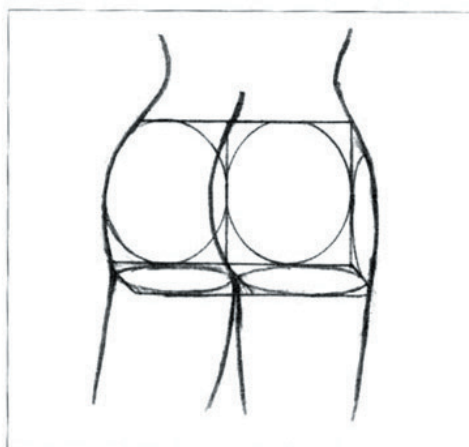
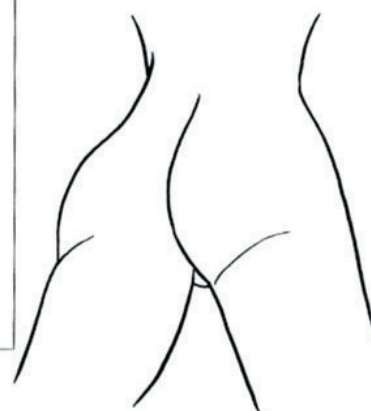
Different Views of the Buttocks

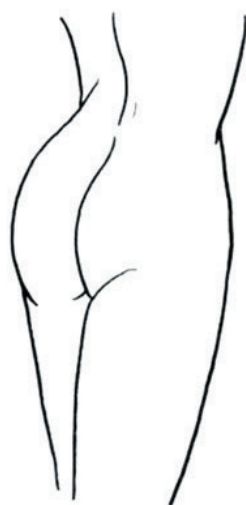
The Contour of the Buttocks

The secret to drawing an attractive buttocks is in thinking of the crevice as an extension of the spine.

How to Draw the Buttocks

1. Sketch the basic outlines

2. Draw the legs. The buttocks do not really take shape yet.

3. Extend the line of the spine along the curve of the buttocks.

Why Getting the Crevice Right is So Vital

Knowing how to draw the crevice is important when drawing the buttocks in slacks or jeans as well.

The crevice follows along the line of the spine, and represents the center of the lower body.

4. Finished

The Buttocks from a Low Angle

2. Draw the legs.

3. Remove the corners and fill in the curves.

When standing with legs apart

The Buttocks When Walking

With the left foot forward

With the legs together

With the right foot forward

Effects You Can Achieve with the Buttocks

Different Views

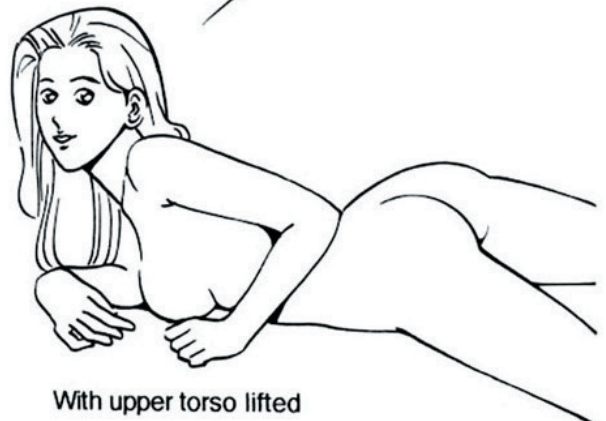
There are a fairly limited number of poses and angles that let you take advantage of the curvature and fullness of the buttocks.

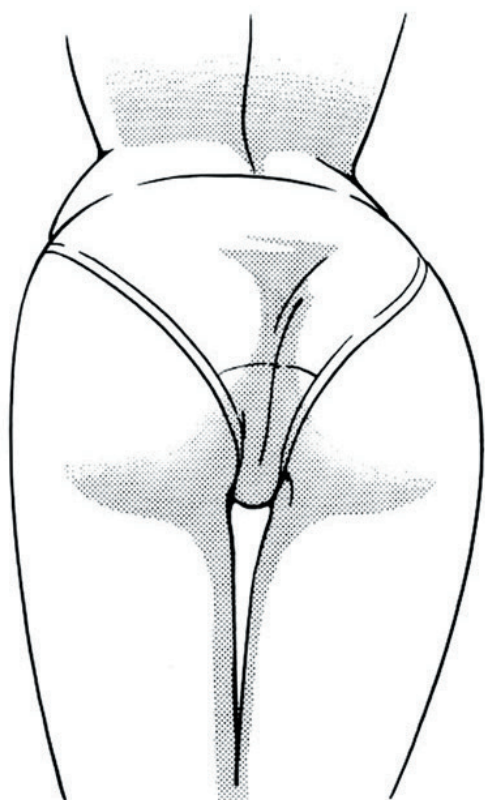
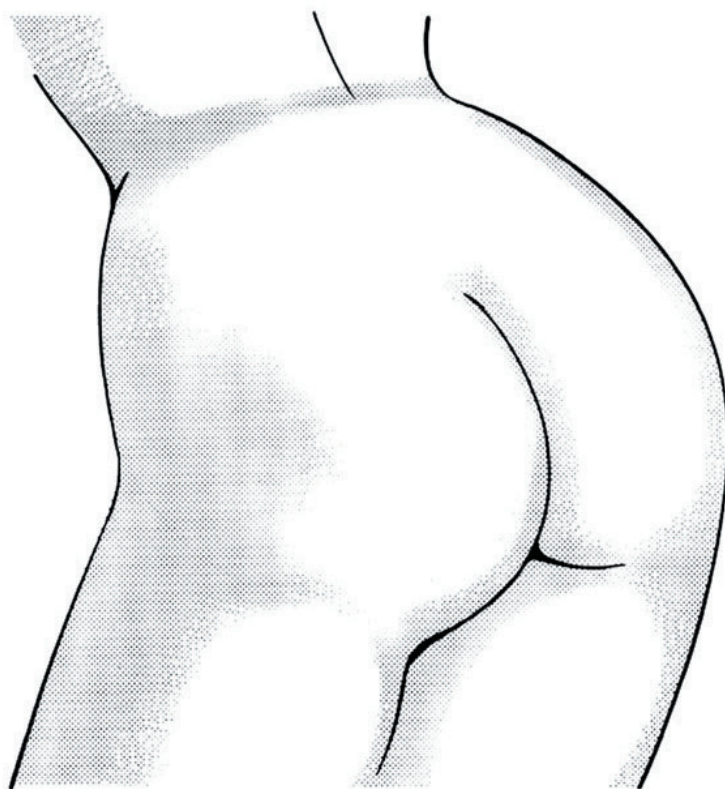
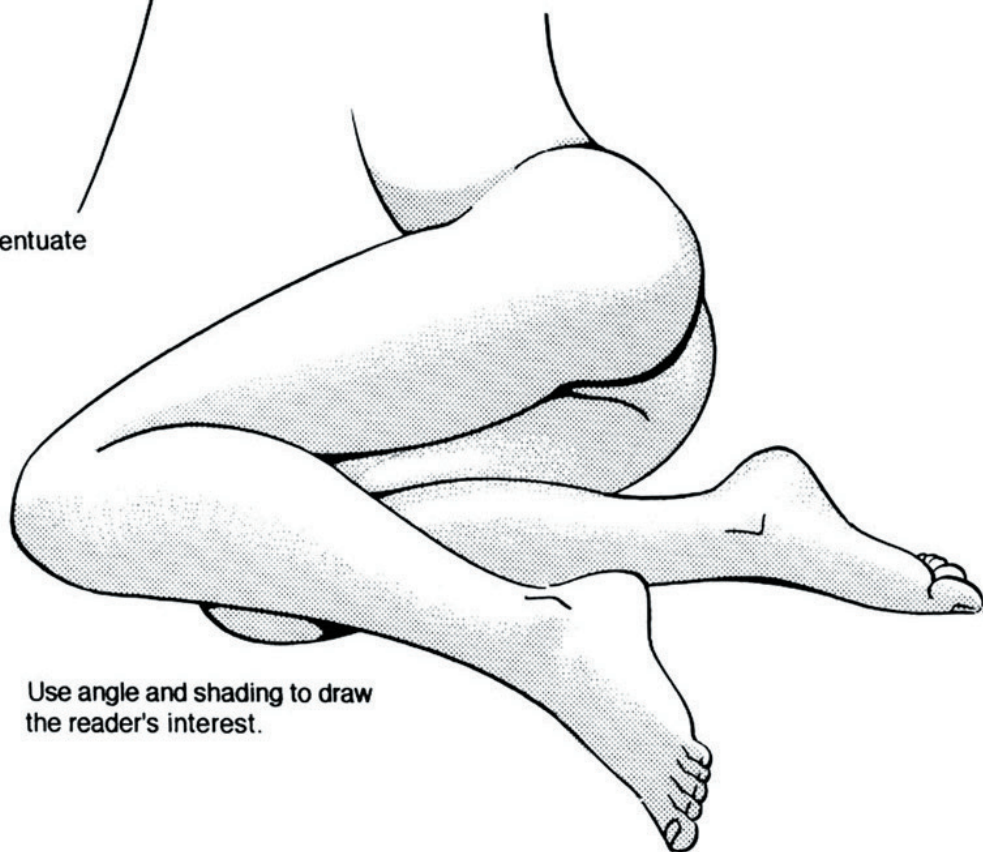
3/4 view, with hips thrust out

Looking past the breasts to the hips

Lying face down

Viewed from the feet

View featuring the back

With upper torso lifted

Techniques of Expression

Use underwear to accentuate the sense of reality.

Apply screentones to bring out the curvature and fleshiness.

Use angle and shading to draw the reader's interest.

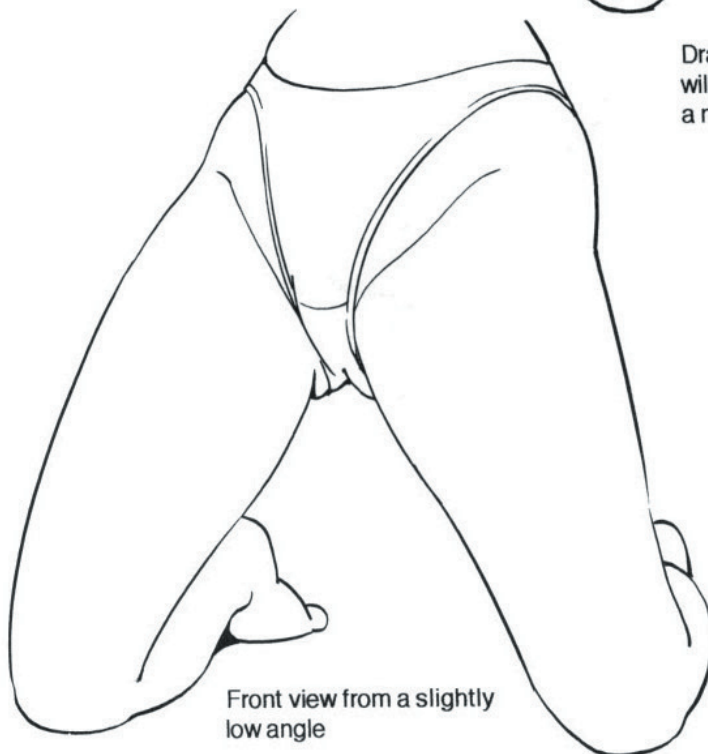
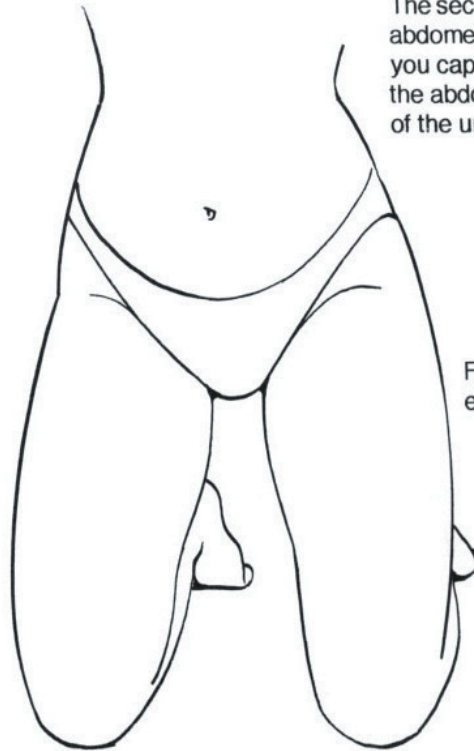
The Crotch

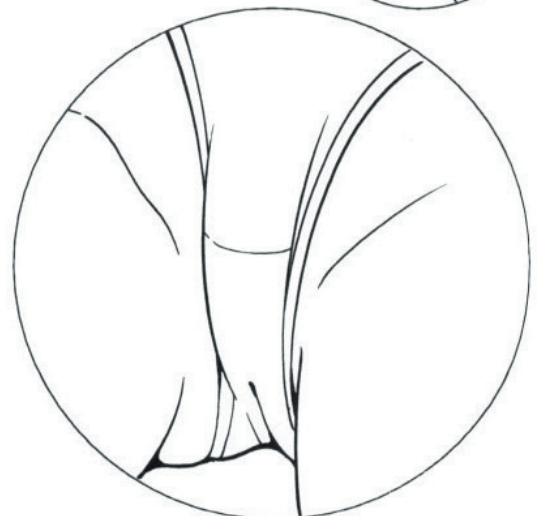
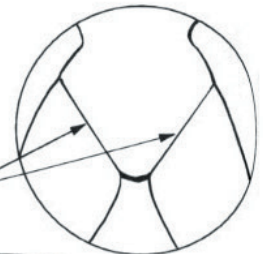
Using Curved Lines to Show Dimension in the Crotch

1. Standing on Knees

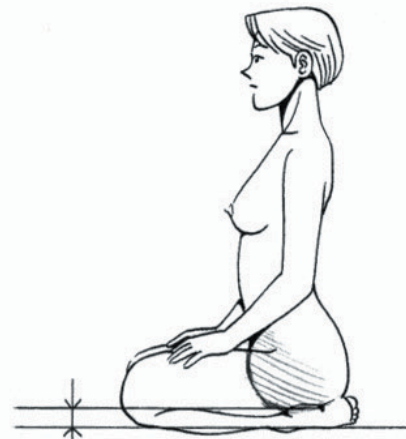
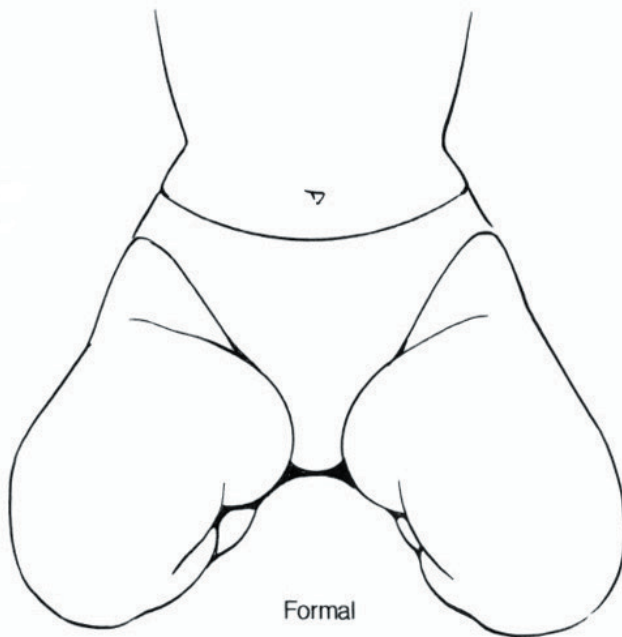
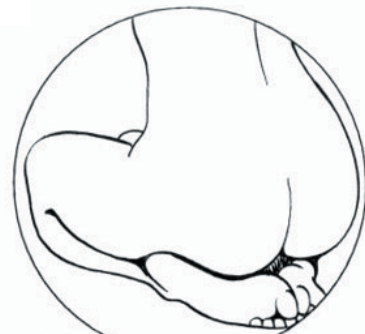
The secret to drawing the lower abdomen and crotch lies in how you capture the gentle slope of the abdomen in the curved lines of the underpants.

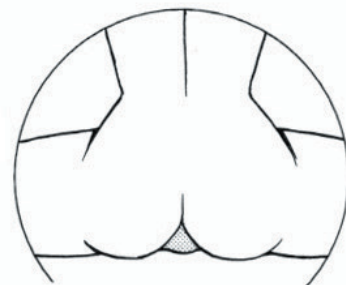
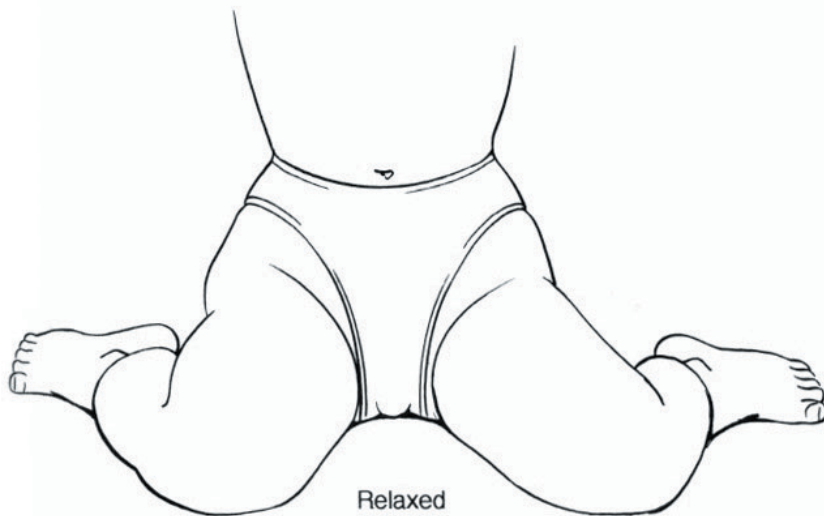
3/4 view

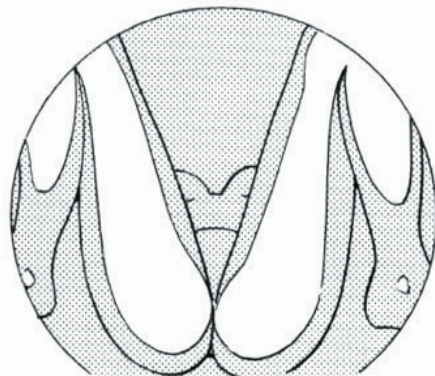
Front view from a slightly elevated angle

Drawing these lines straight will make it look more like a male crotch.

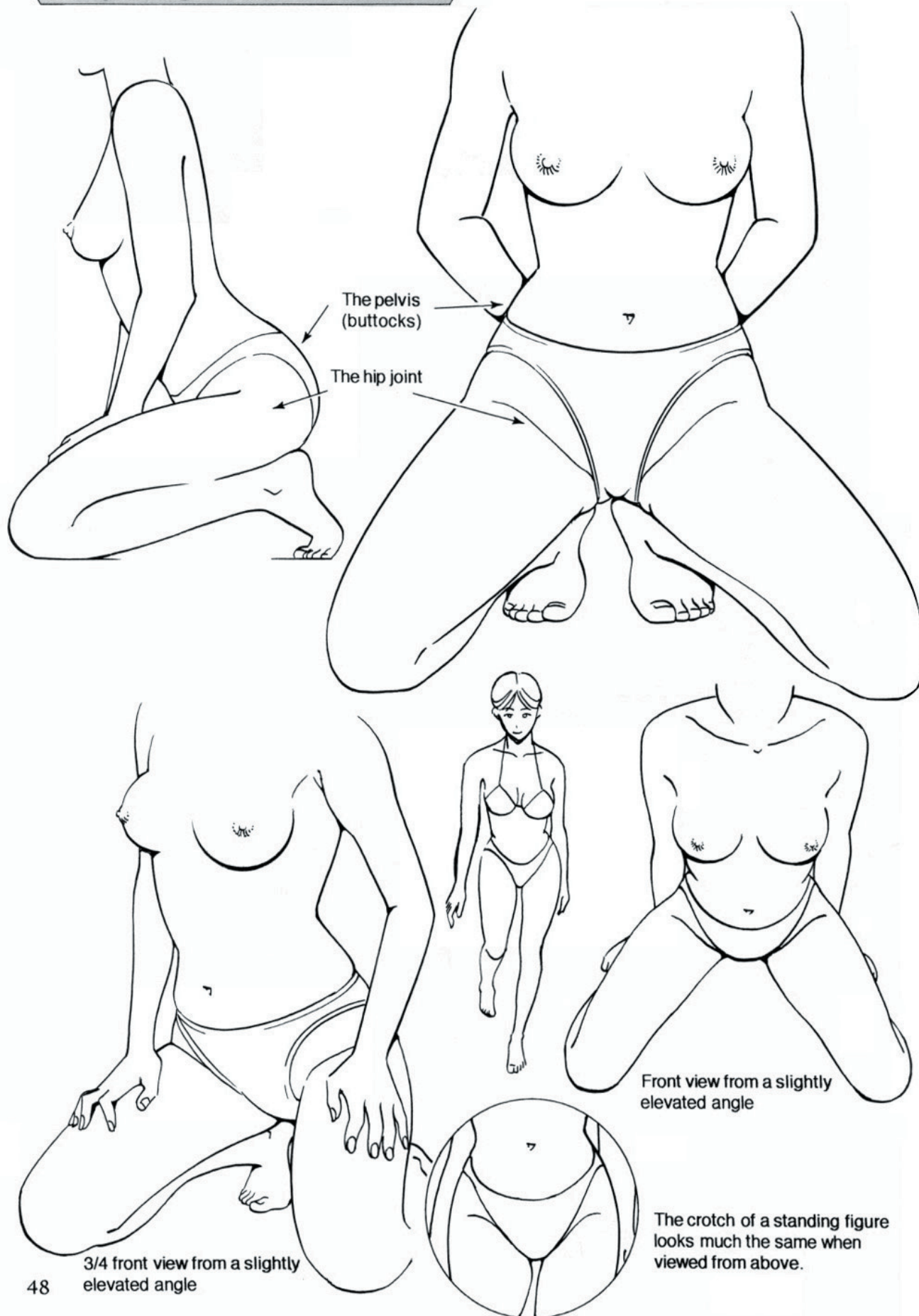
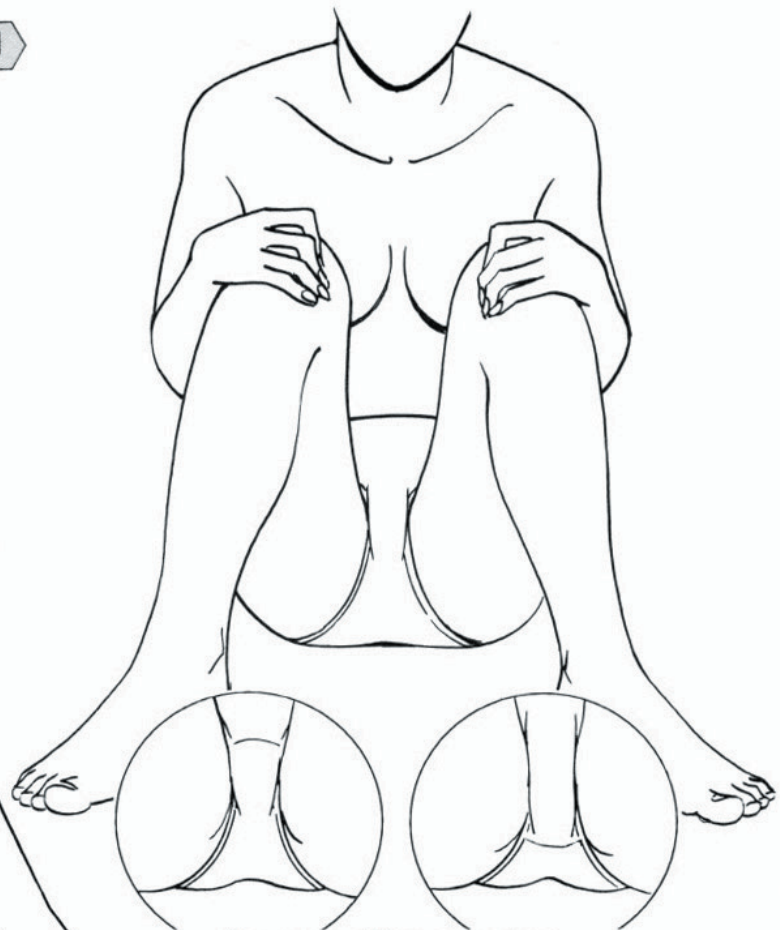
Front view from a slightly low angle

The lines in the underwear show the contours of the crotch.

2. Sitting on Knees

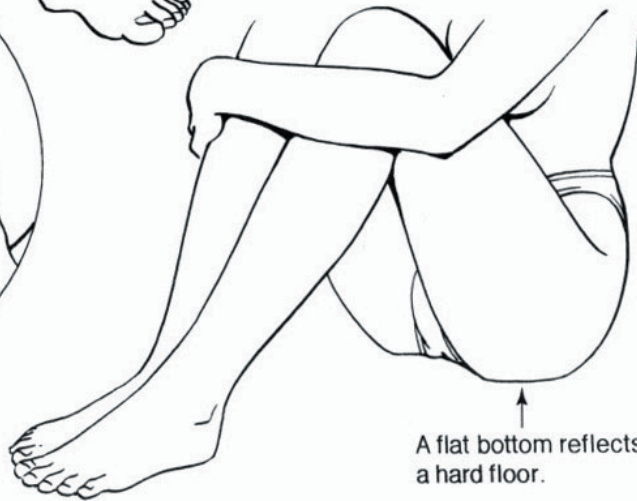
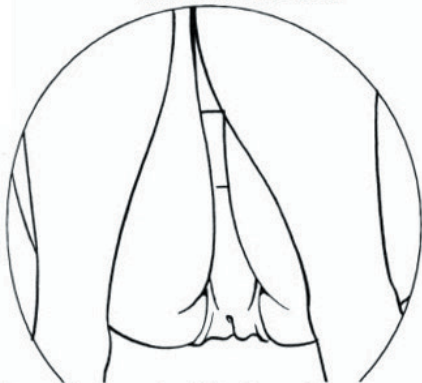
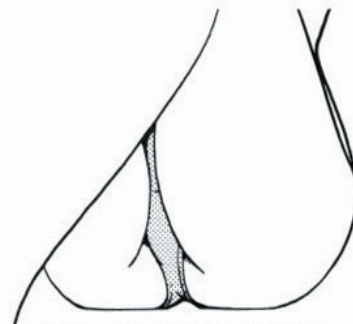
Formal

Side view: The crotch does not touch the floor.

The buttocks are soft, so the heel digs in.

Relaxed

When the legs turn outward, the buttocks are pulled apart and the crevice opens up.

Wearing high-cut or string bikini-type underwear

View from below: the thighs and the buttocks press flat against the floor.

3. Squatting on Toes and Knees

Front view from a slightly elevated angle

The crotch of a standing figure looks much the same when viewed from above.

3/4 front view from a slightly elevated angle

4. Sitting on Buttocks, Part 1

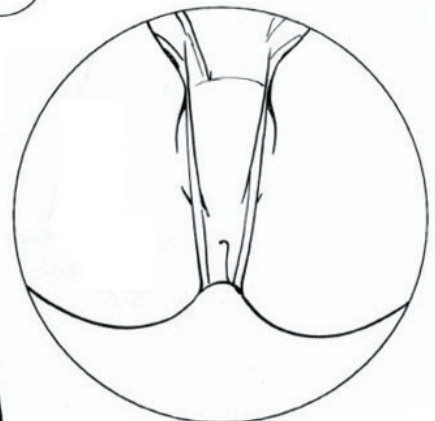
5. Sitting on Buttocks, Part 2

Even for essentially the same sitting position, the appearance of the crotch will be different depending on whether the figure is leaning forward or back.

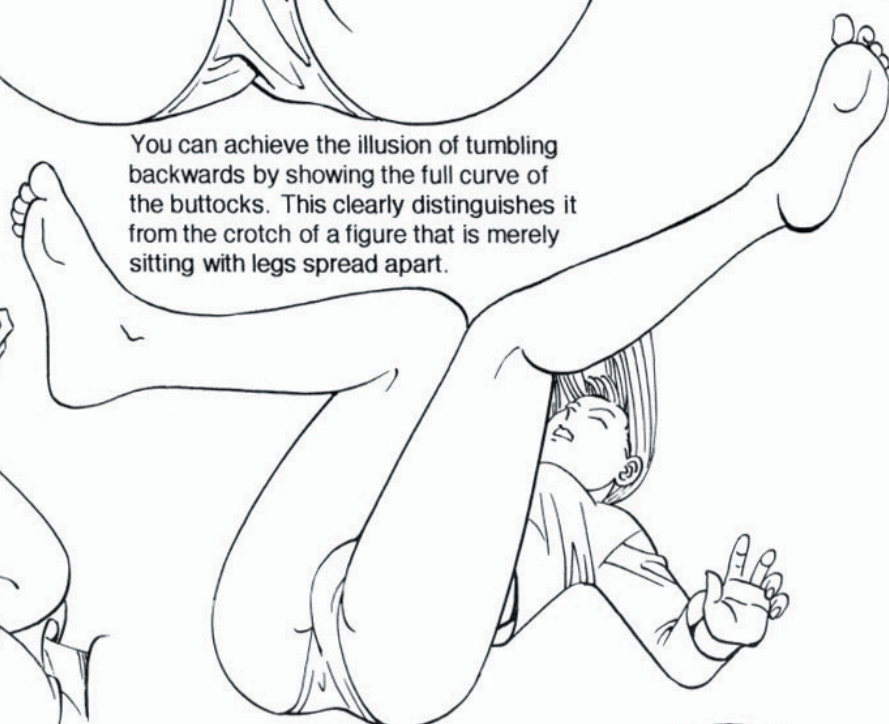
Showing the thighbone

When leaning back with head behind hips and hands on the floor,

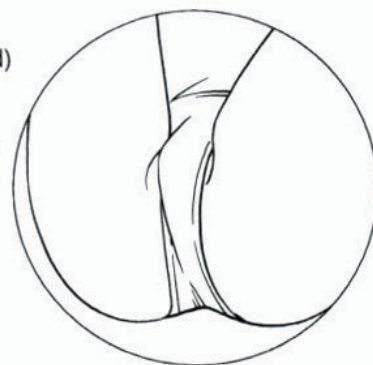
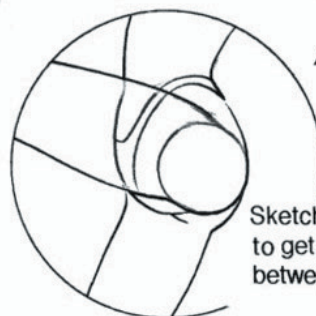
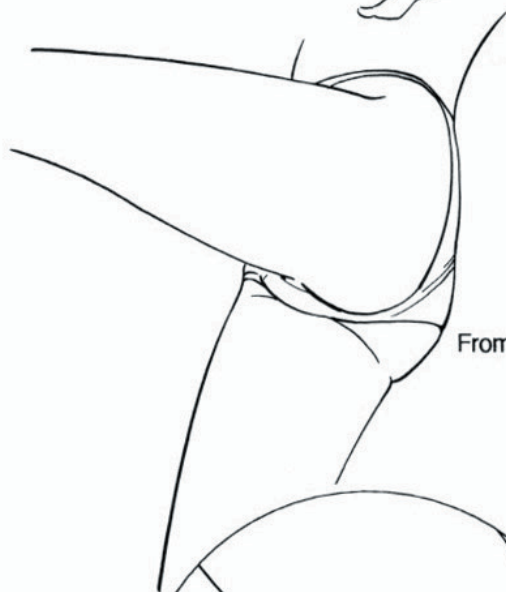
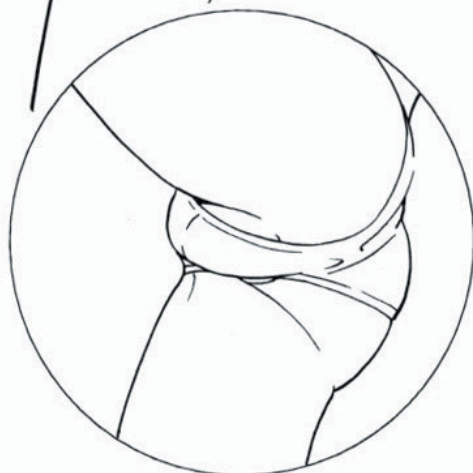
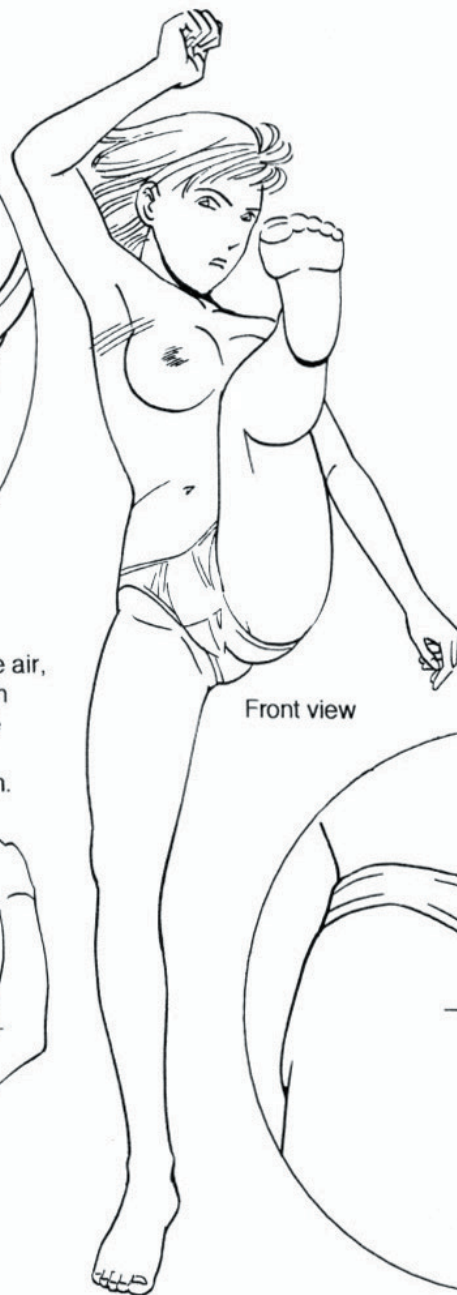
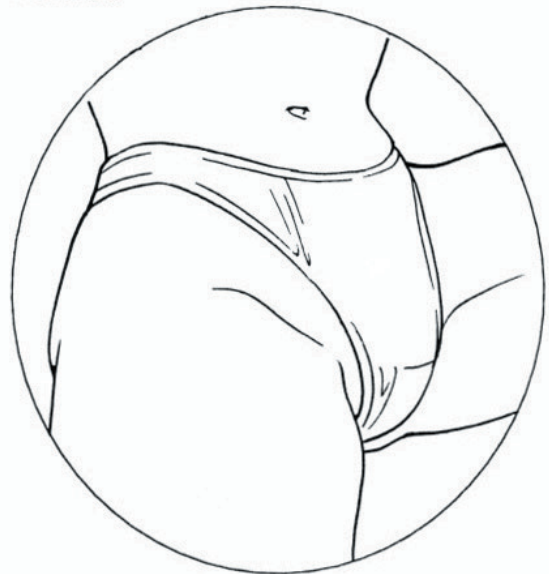
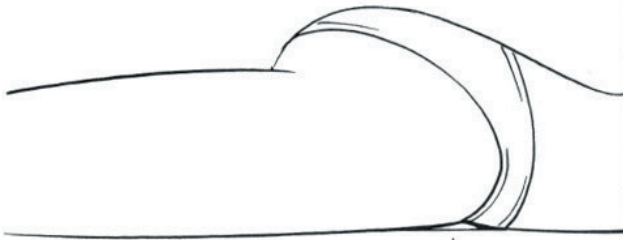
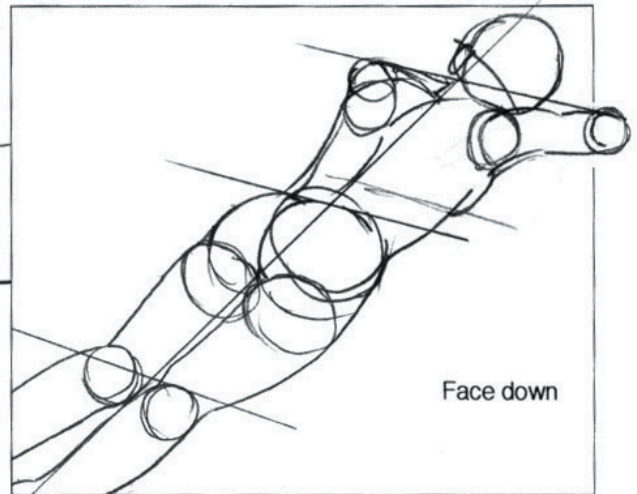
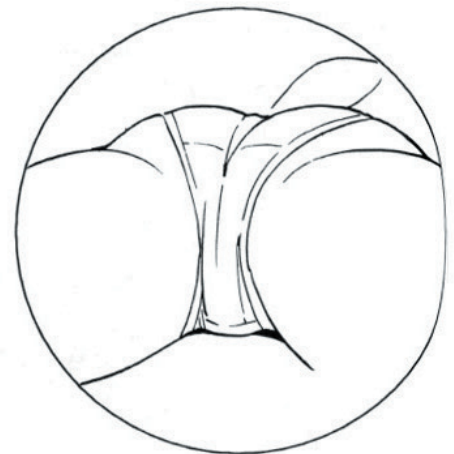
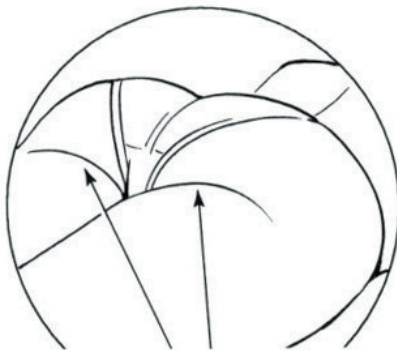
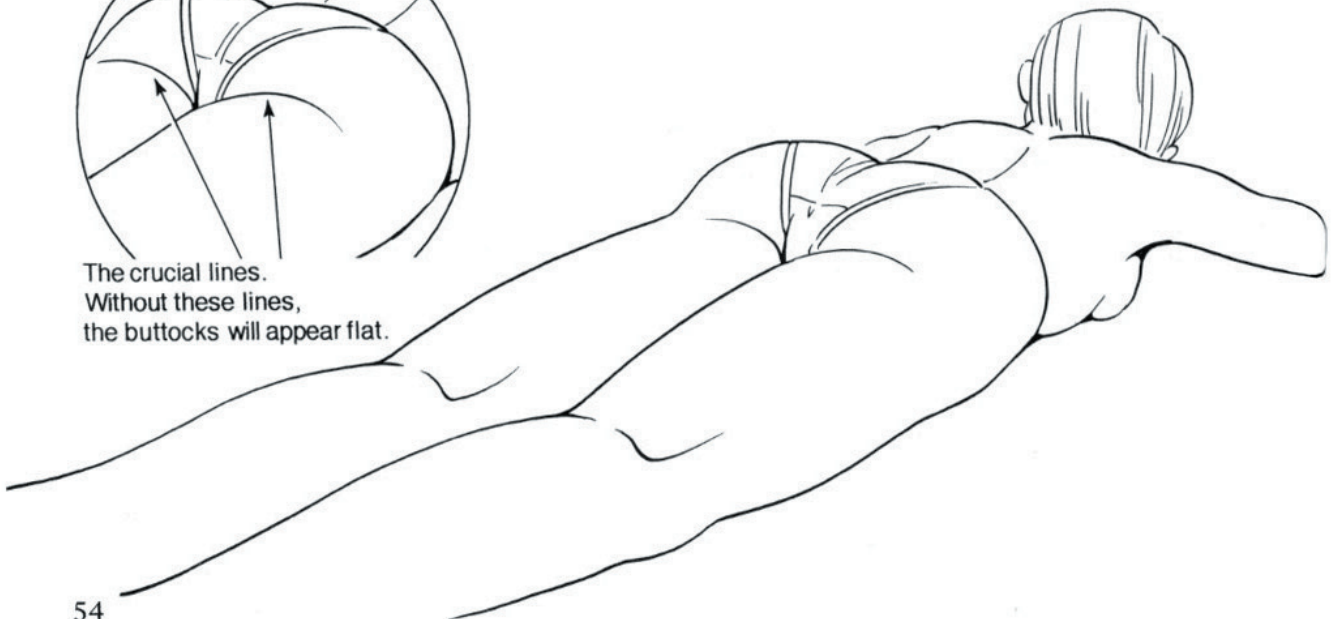
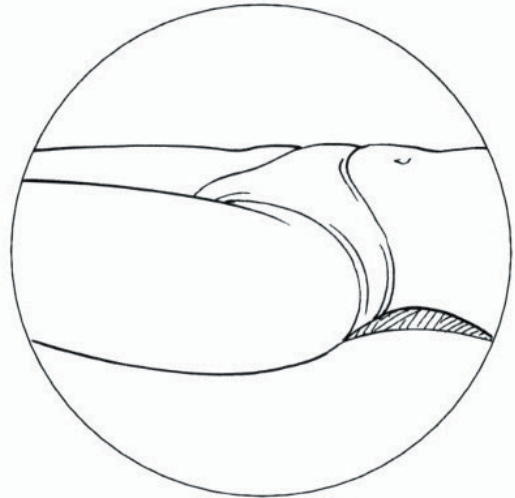
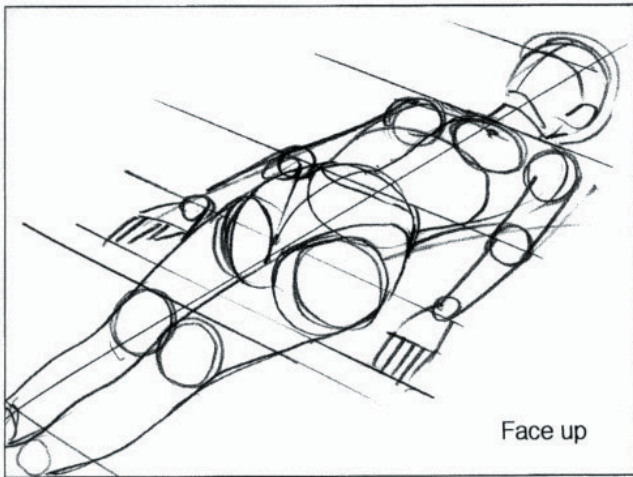
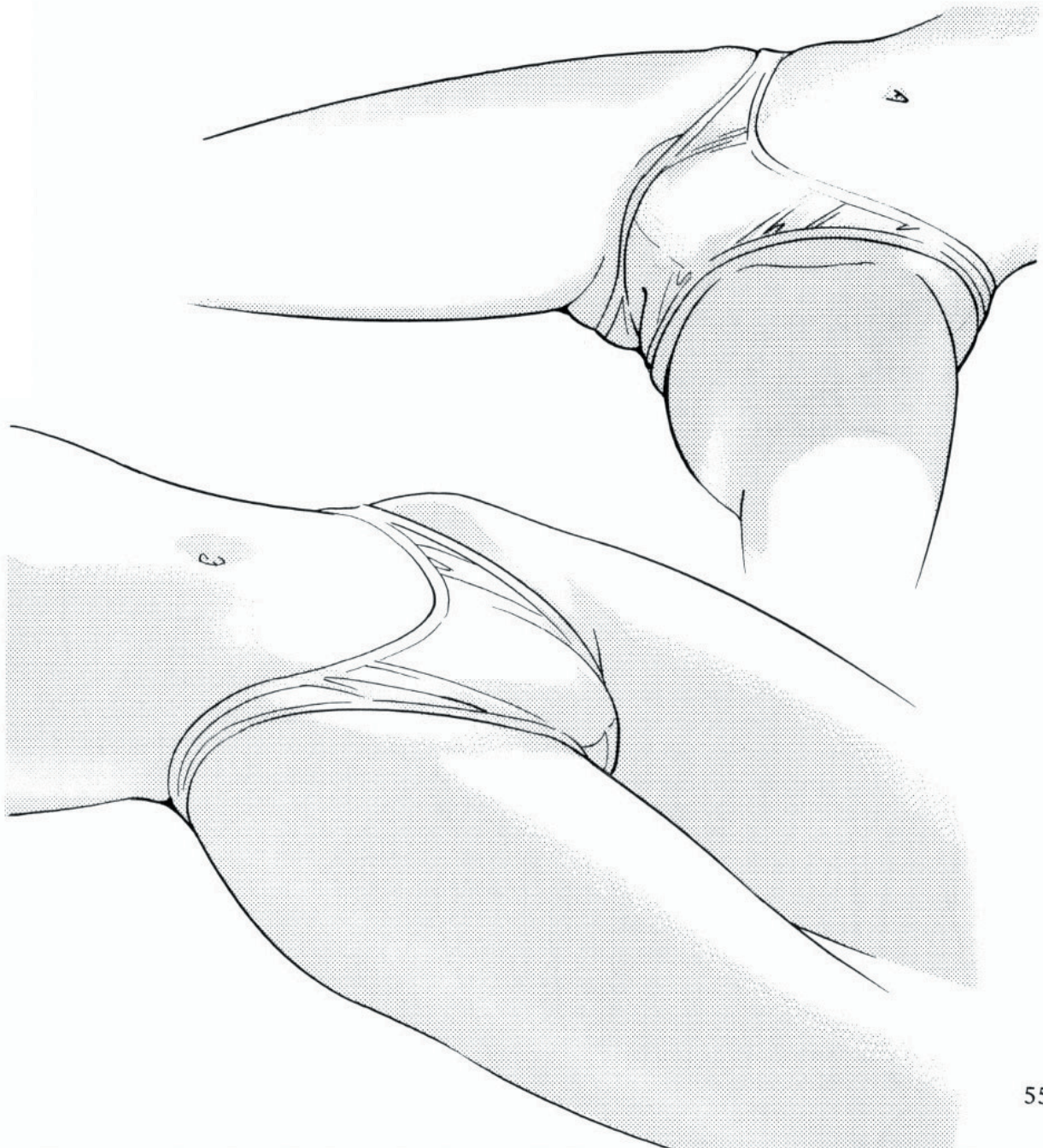
If you draw the crotch area in too much detail, the effect will be obscene.

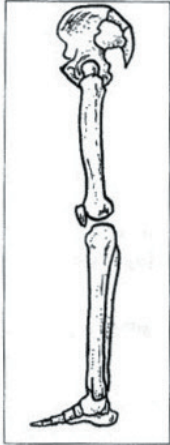
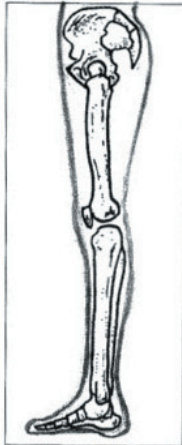
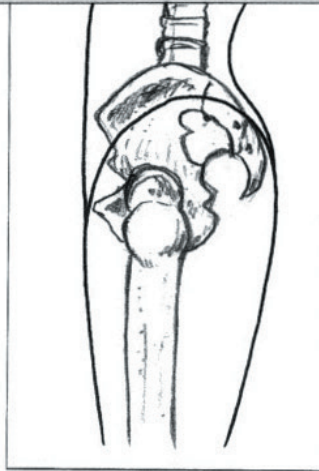
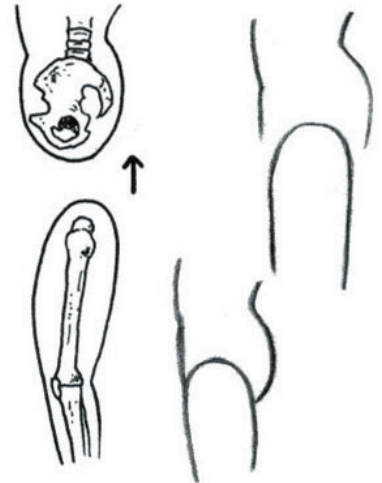
When leaning forward with head in front of hips

6. Falling Over Backwards

You can achieve the illusion of tumbling backwards by showing the full curve of the buttocks. This clearly distinguishes it from the crotch of a figure that is merely sitting with legs spread apart.

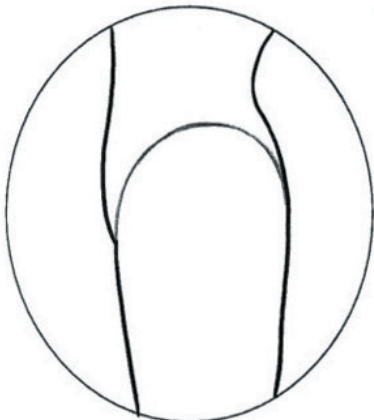
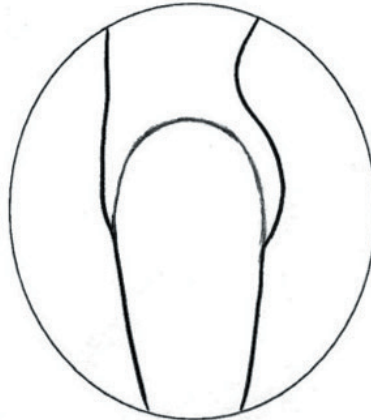
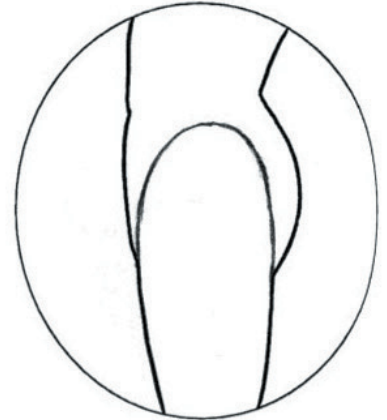
Falling with legs pressed together

An even harder fall
(such as when falling off of a bed)

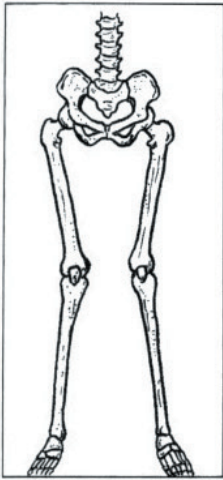
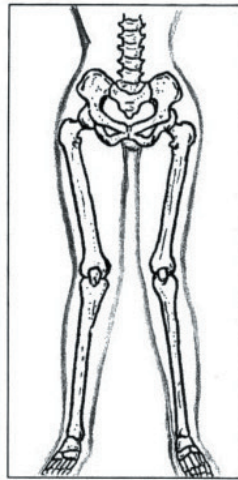
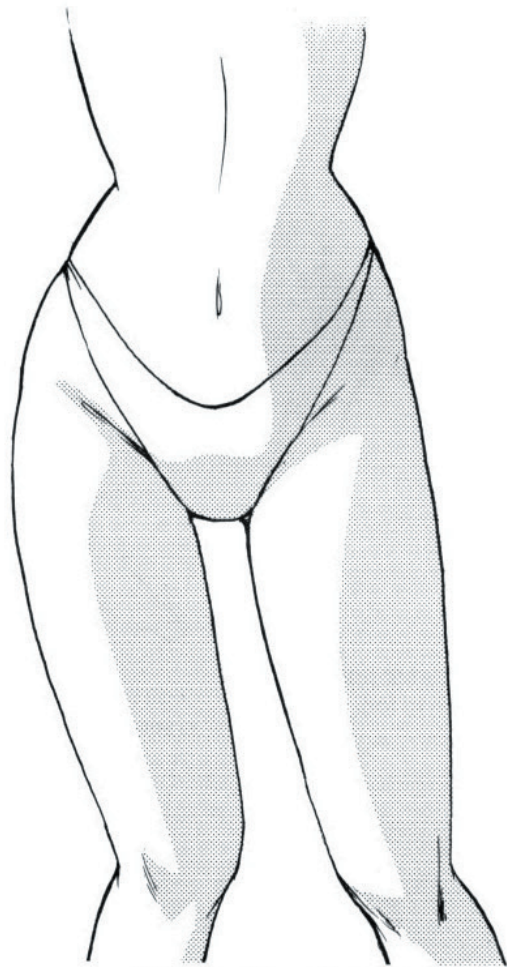
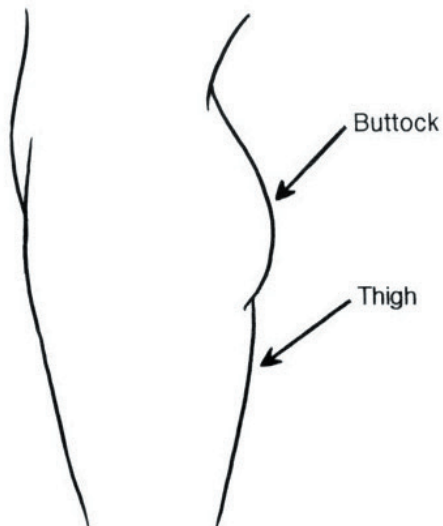
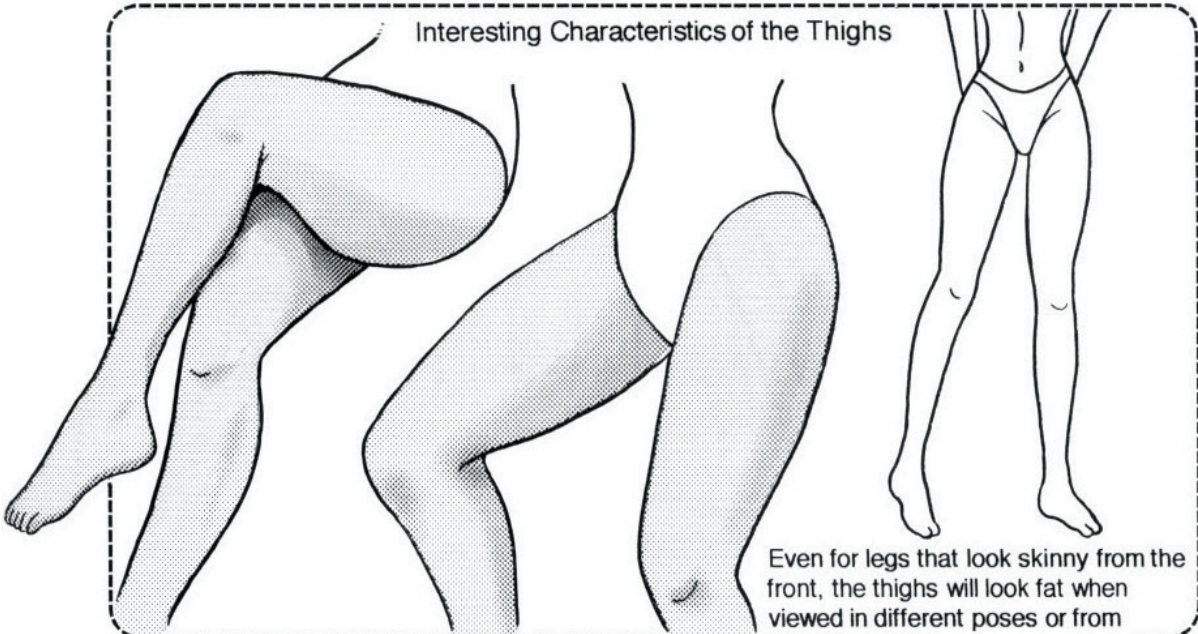
For greater realism, leave a little space between the seam of the underwear and the crease of the thigh joint.

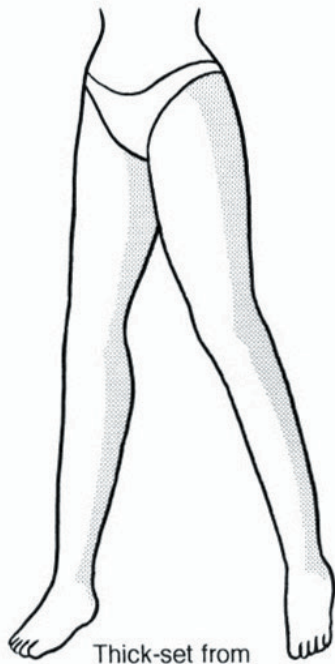
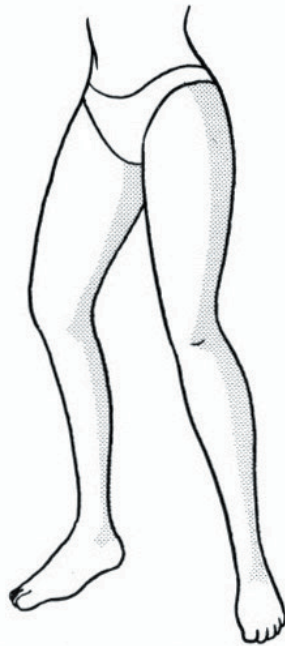
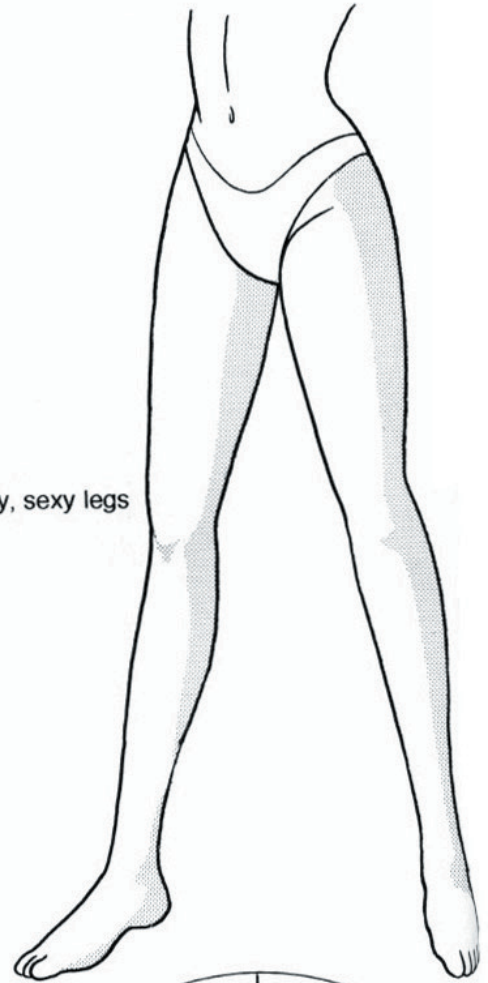
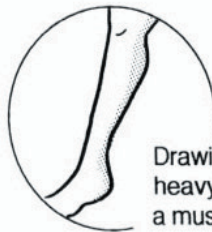
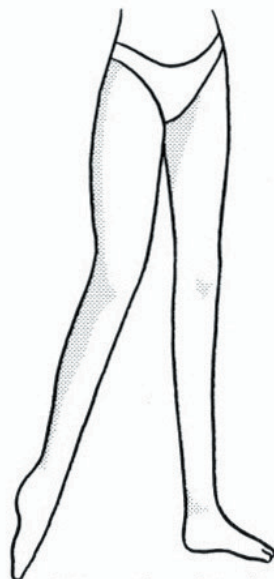
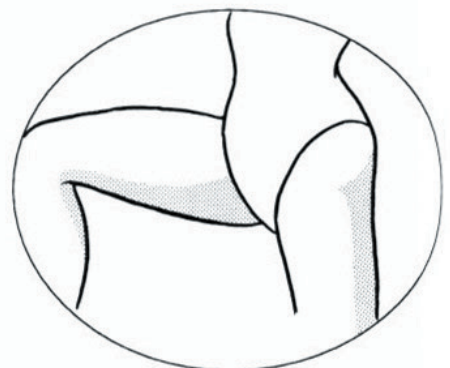
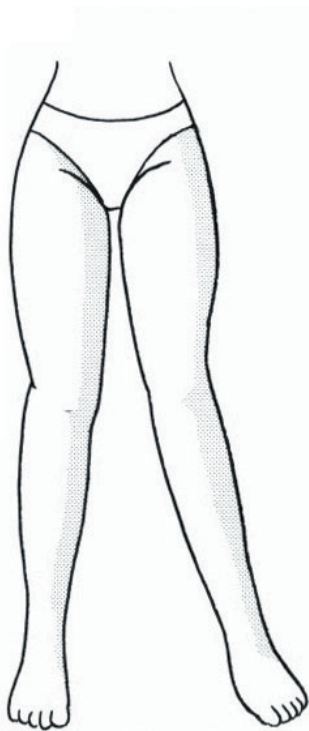
You can create the impression of more dynamic movement by drawing muscle lines in the thighs.

The Lower Body in Action

When drawing a figure with a leg up in the air, give particular attention to the wrinkles in the underwear. Lines extending from the crevice in the buttocks and from the pubic mound give a feeling of realism.

The Relation Between the Buttocks,Crotch, and Legs

On a hard floor, there will be a gap between the waist and the floor.

The Legs

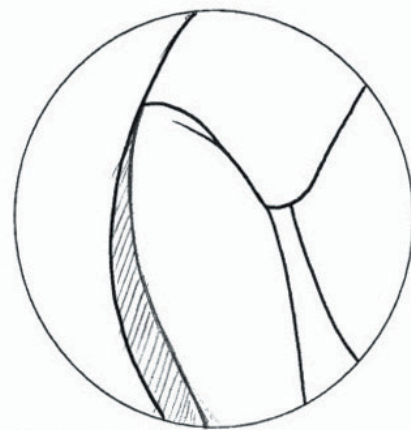
Drawing the Legs With an Understanding of Their Bone Structure

The bones

X-ray view

If you extend the thigh directly off of the buttocks, it will tend to be quite fat.

When you want to draw a less beefy thigh, draw the thigh first in the desired proportions and then adjust the buttocks as necessary for a natural fit.

A Side View of the Leg at the Hip

The thickness of the thigh where it attaches to the pelvis determines the shape of the buttocks.

Thick thigh

Average thigh

Thin thigh

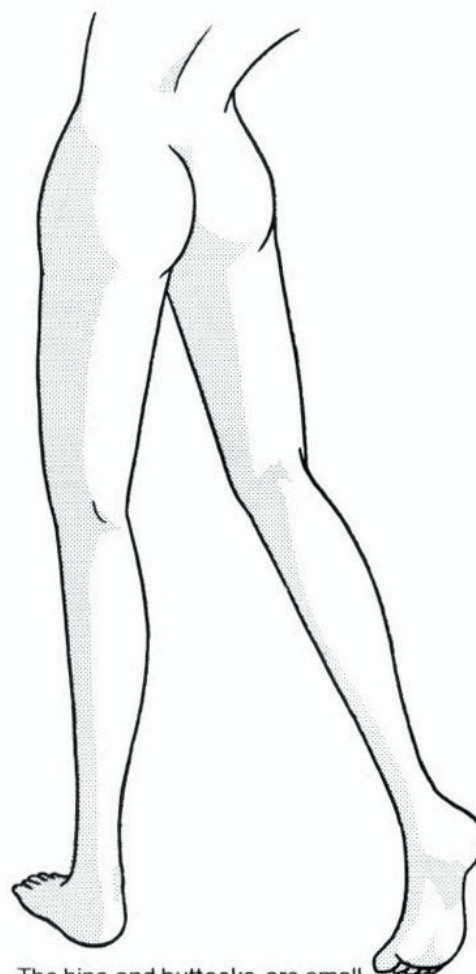
The Relation Between Pelvis and Legs

High-cut style underwear reveals the thigh joint.

Even for legs that look skinny from the front, the thighs will look fat when viewed in different poses or from different angles.

Different Types of Legs

The hips are wide and the legs are heavy-set as well.

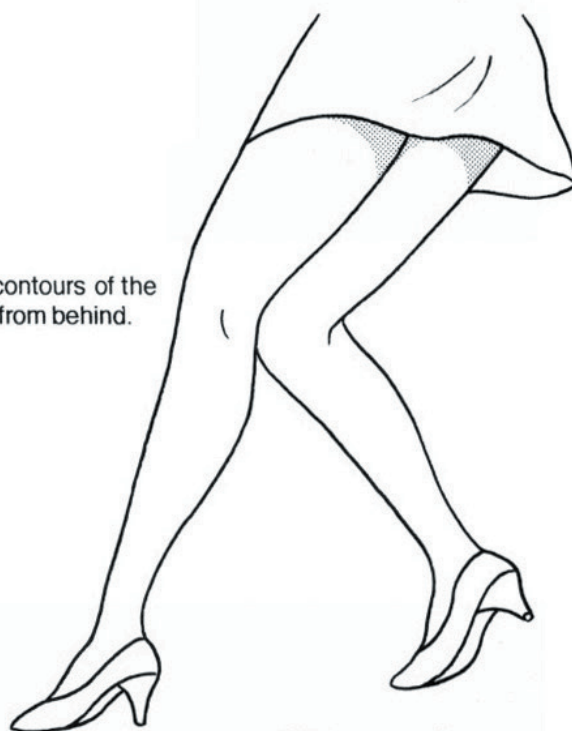
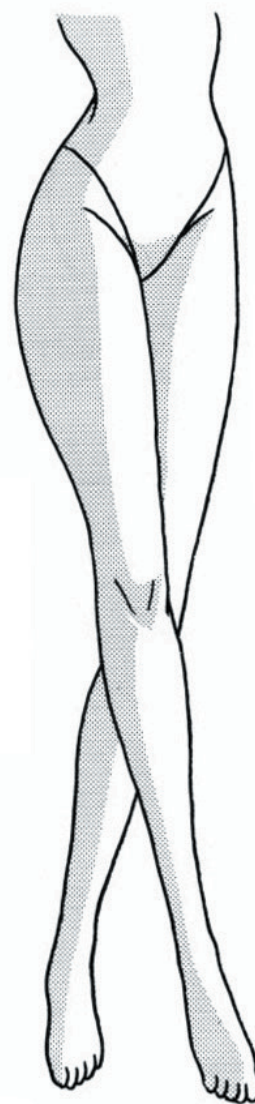
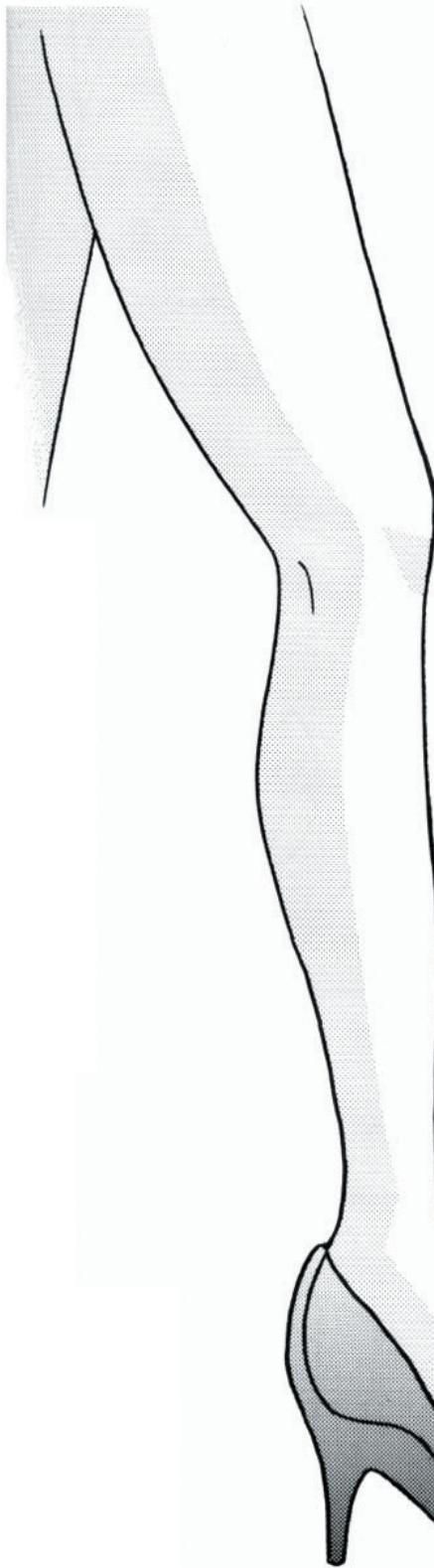
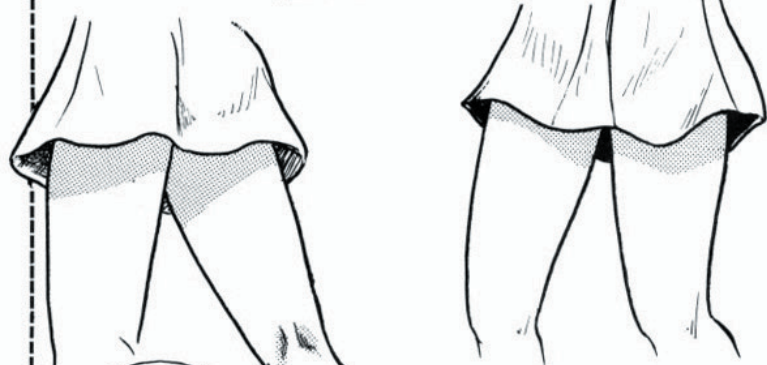
The hips are wide but the legs are shapely.

If the line tracing from hip to thigh curves too wide, the leg will look fat.

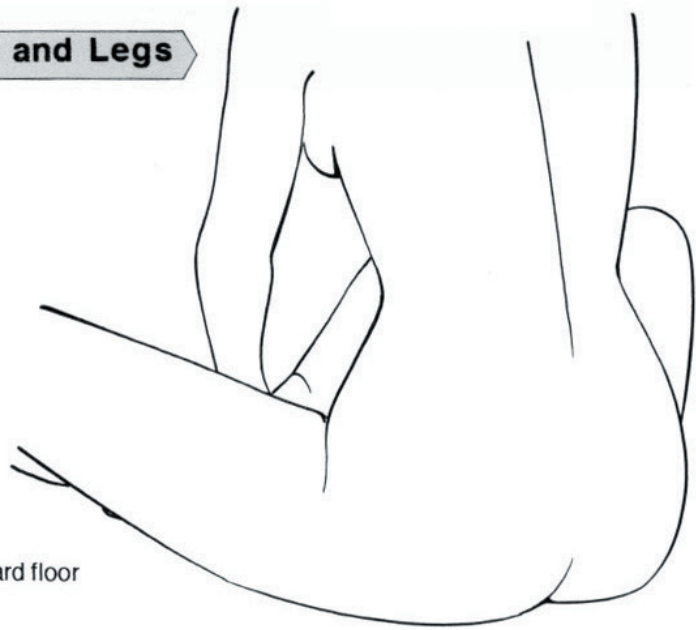
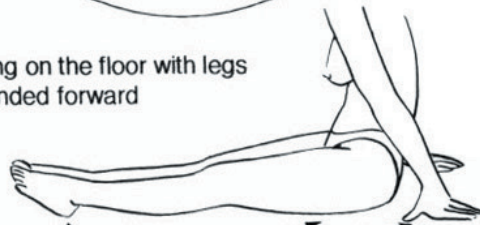
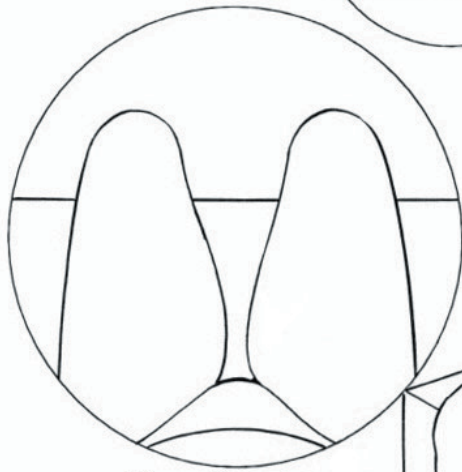
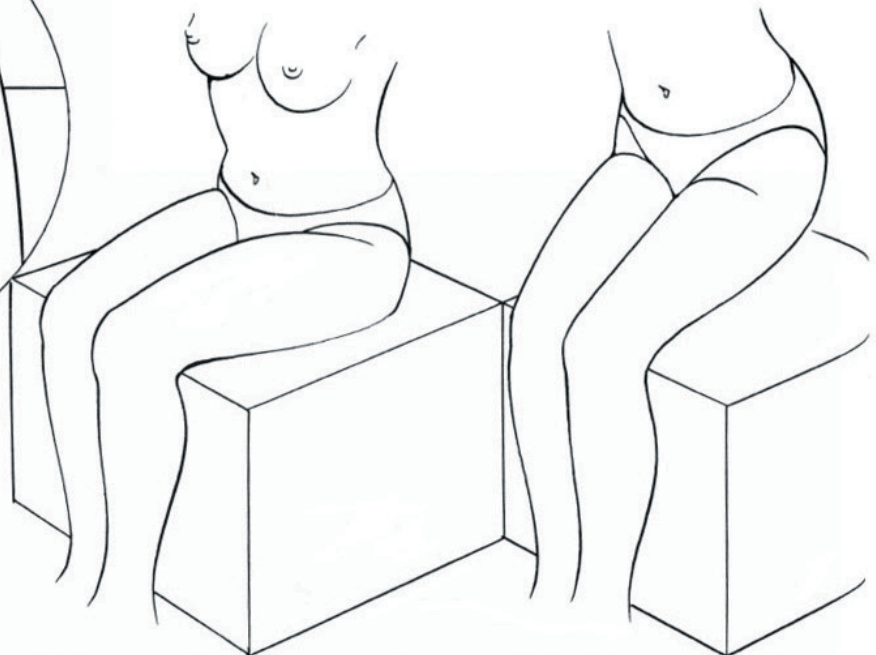
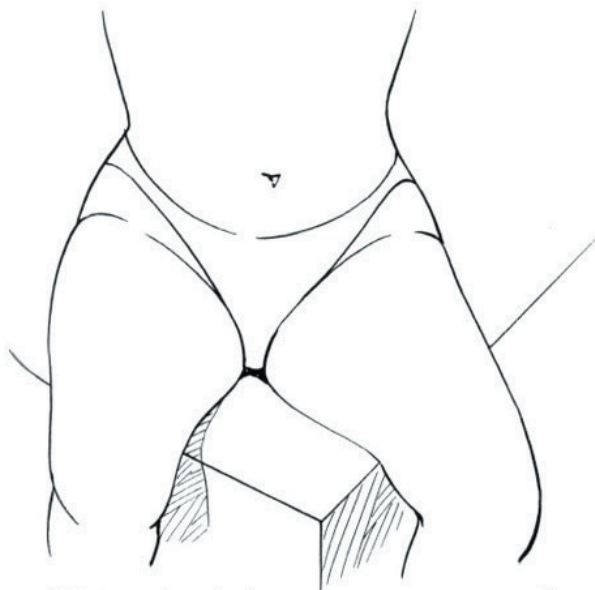
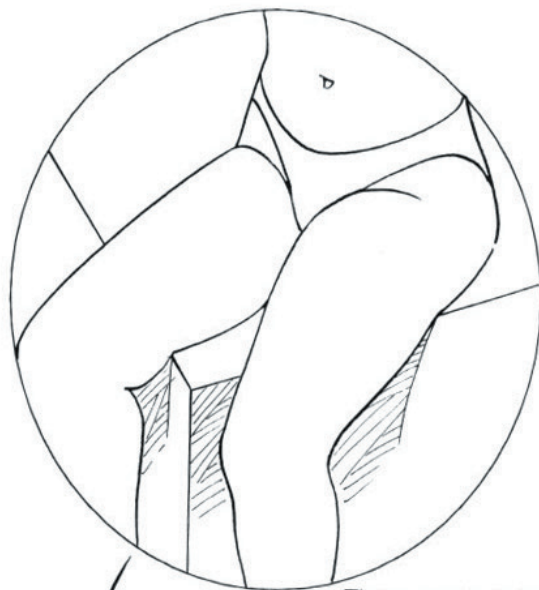
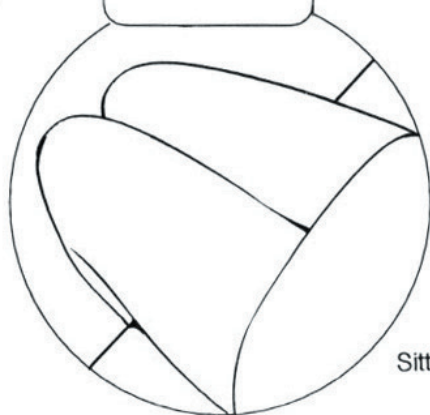
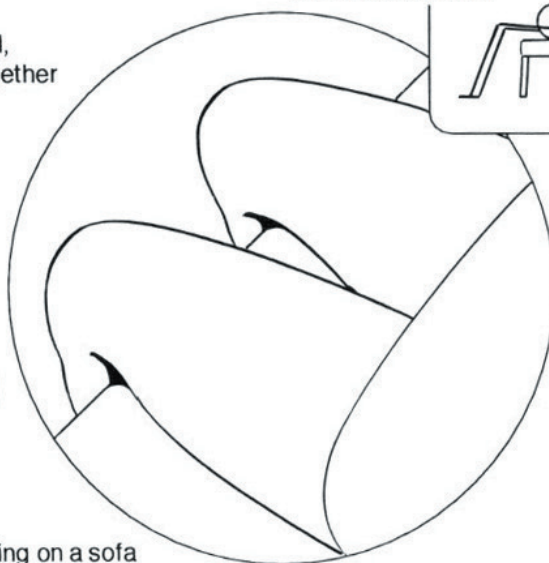
For shapelier legs, taper the lines running from shin and calf to ankle.

A superimposed view.

The hips and buttocks are small but the legs are heavy-set.

The hips and buttocks are small and the legs are slim.

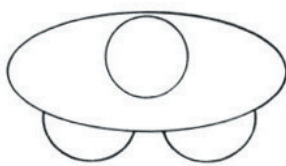
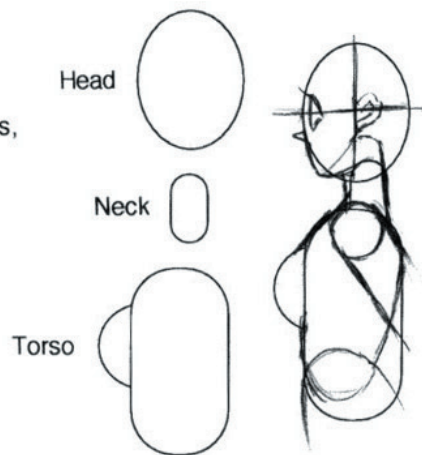
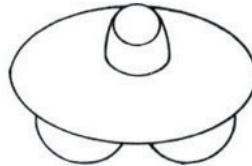
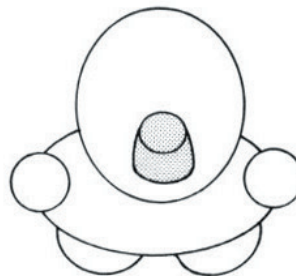
Examples of Pretty Legs

The contours of the legs from behind.

The contours of the legs from the front.

Various ways to Draw Knees
Focus on the Knees
Side view of curvaceous leg.
Up-skirt Effect
Shadow cast on
cylindrical object
The skirt's shadow enhances the
sense of dimension and realism.
The edge of the shadow should be
curved to reflect the cylindrical
nature of the thighs.

The Softness of the Buttocks and Legs

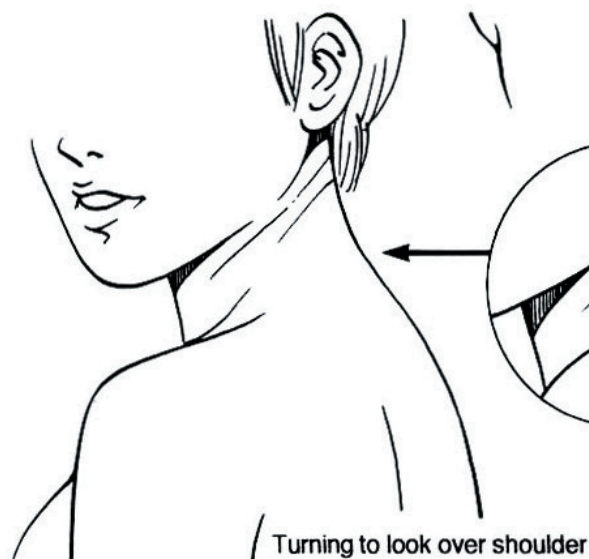
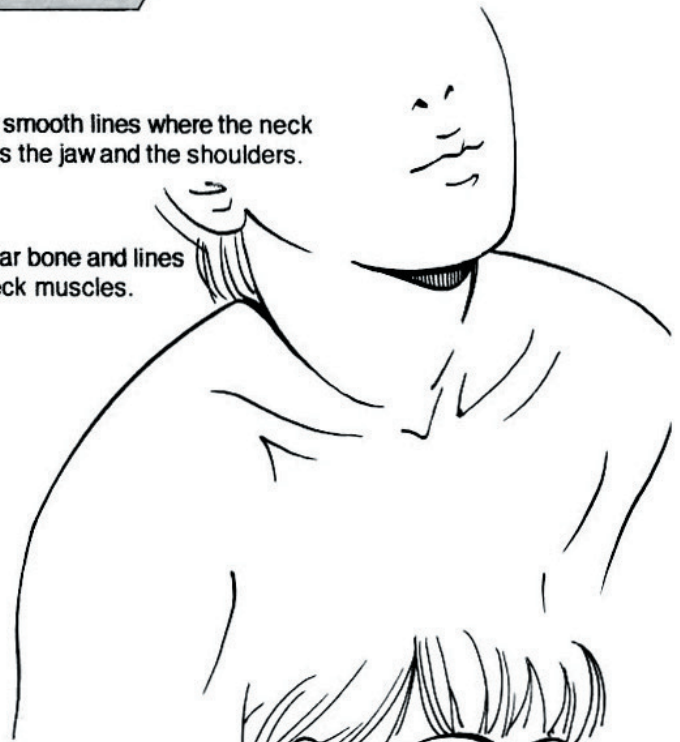
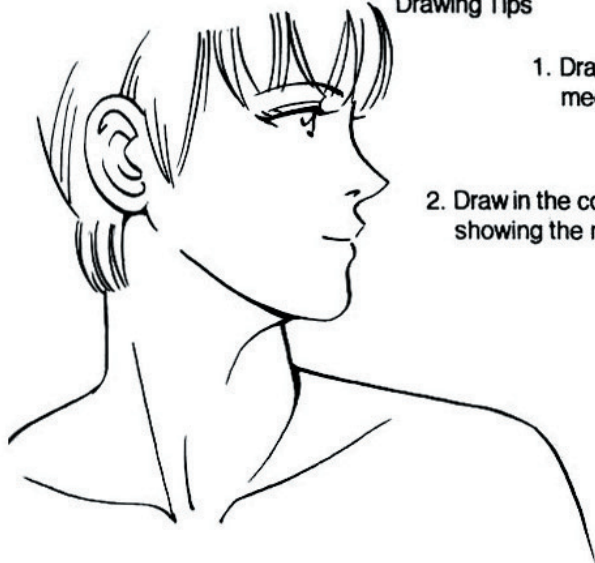
The buttocks and thighs are quite soft, and they change shape according to how weight is being placed on them as well as how hard or soft the underlying surface is.

The Neck

Connecting the Head to the Body

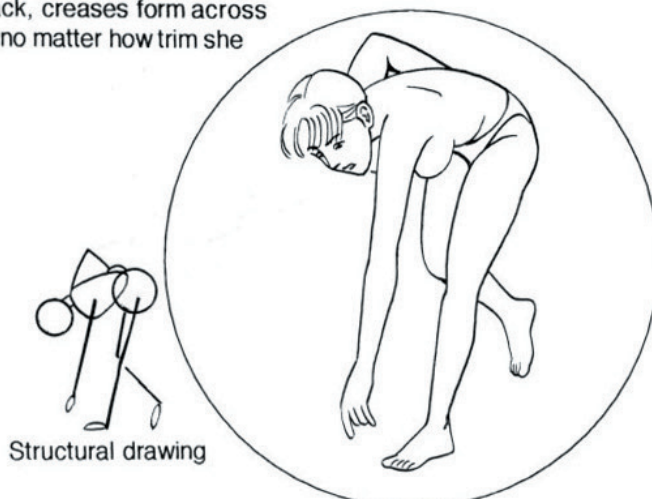
Looking Down From Above

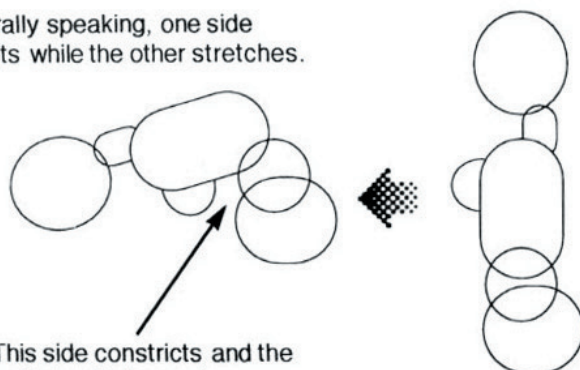
The relative positions of head, neck and torso are easier to see if you draw them from an overhead perspective. Draw the figure in stages, adding one element at a time.

4. Finished.

3. Add the head.

2. Add the neck.

1. Draw the body.

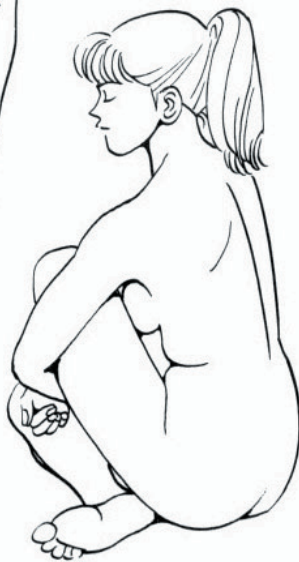
Showing the Neck and Nape of the Neck

The Bent Back

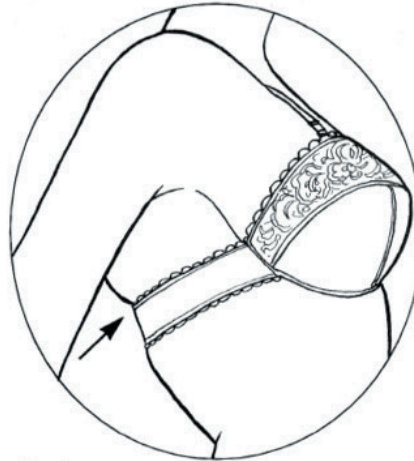
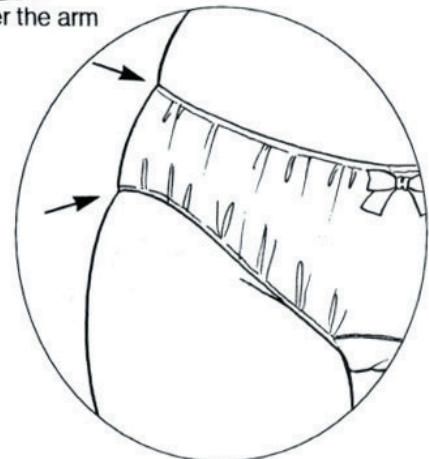
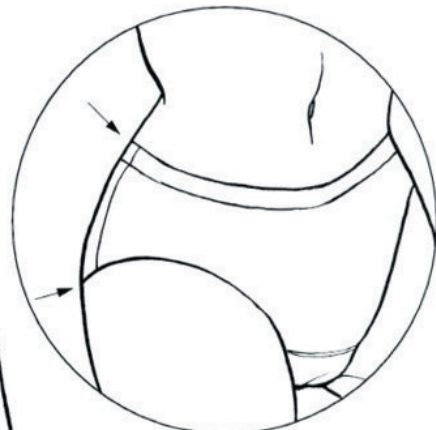
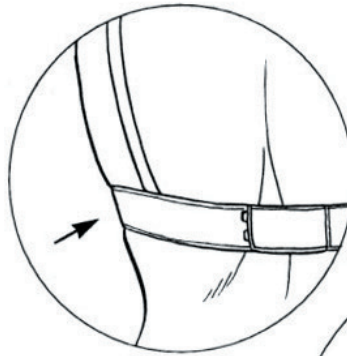
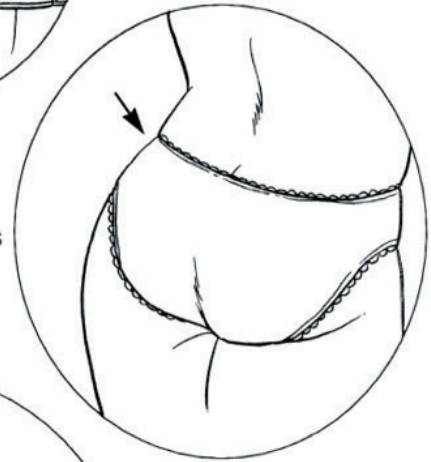
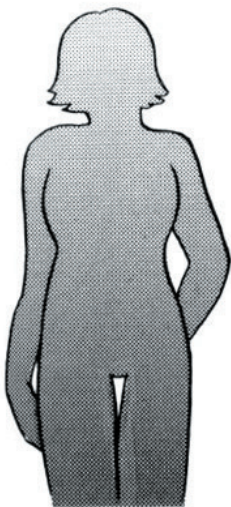
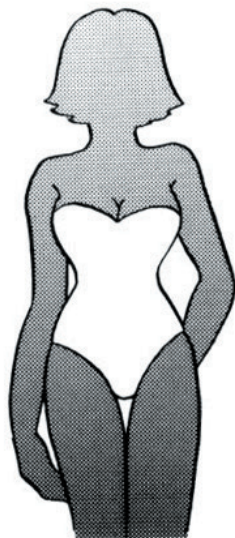
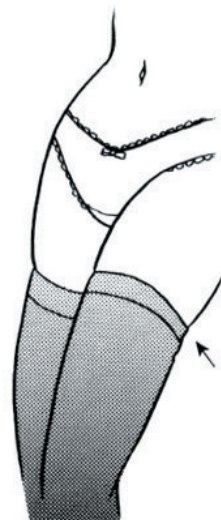
When You Can't Draw a Tapered Waist

When a woman bends forward with a rounded back, creases form across her stomach no matter how trim she might be.

Reaching to pick something up

Structurally speaking, one side constricts while the other stretches.

Bending Over in Other Ways

When knocked forcefully off one's feet

Depending on the posture and the angle,
the stomach creases may or may not show.
To avoid the appearance of a fat belly,
keep the creases to a minimum in your drawing.

The Effect of Underwear and Bathing Suits on the Female Figure

You can show the softness of the flesh in how it yields to the pressure of various items of clothing. In the case of underwear or bathing suits, it may be either the elastic along the edges or the fabric itself that presses into the skin.

The bra band under the arm

Panties press into the hips

Some kinds of fabric provide a glove-like fit that makes virtually no impression on the ski

Natural figure

With body suit

Long tights pressing into thighs

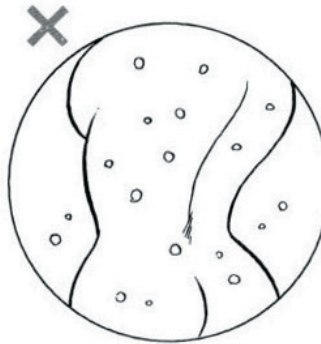
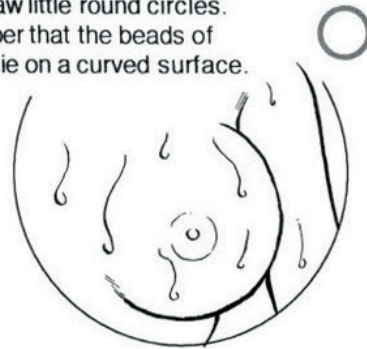
A bathing suit that's one size too small

Water Droplets and Beads of Sweat

Always keep the contours of the body in mind when drawing droplets of water or sweat.

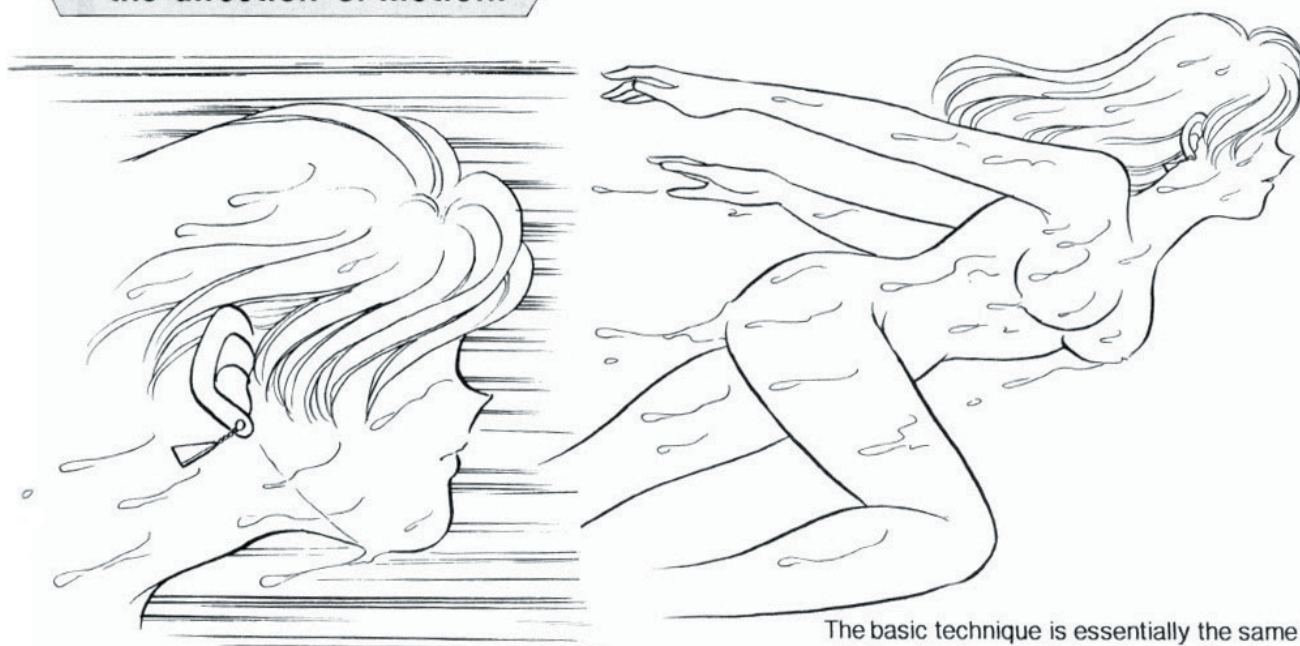
1. Water flows along body contours.

The flow of water or sweat should follow the body's curves.

Don't simply draw little round circles. Always remember that the beads of water or sweat lie on a curved surface.

If you simply draw little round circles, they will look like drops of water resting on a sheet of glass in front of the figure.

2. Water obeys the rules of gravity.

Beads of water and sweat are drawn downward by the pull of gravity.

3. Water is affected by the direction of motion.

Beads of water and sweat are affected by the flow of air or the speed of an action as they flow along the contours of the body.

The basic technique is essentially the same whether the figure is to be shown with a few beads of sweat, sweating profusely, or drenched with water.

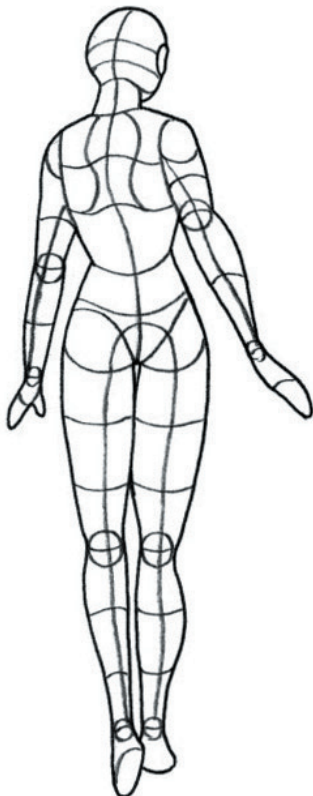
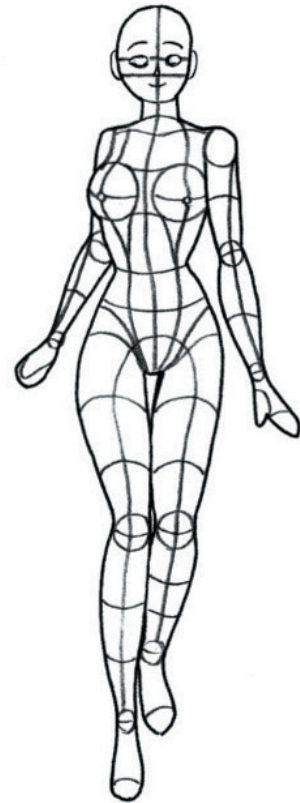
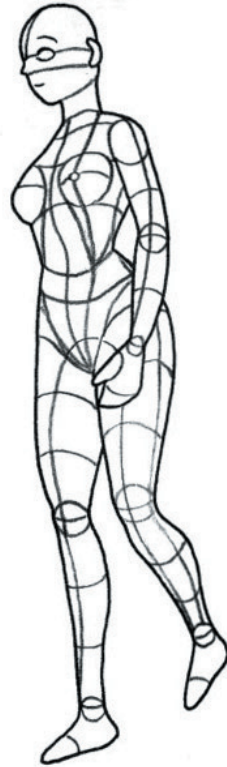
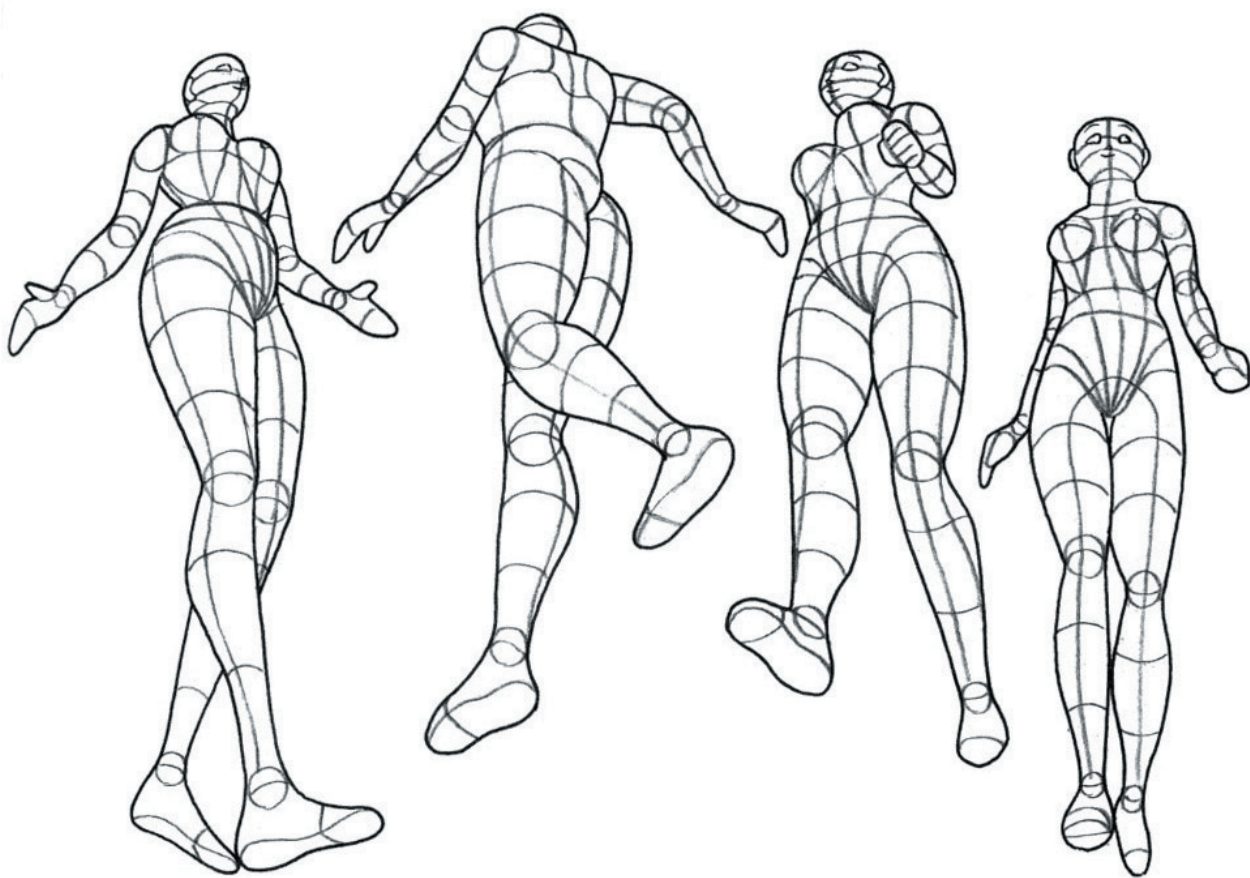
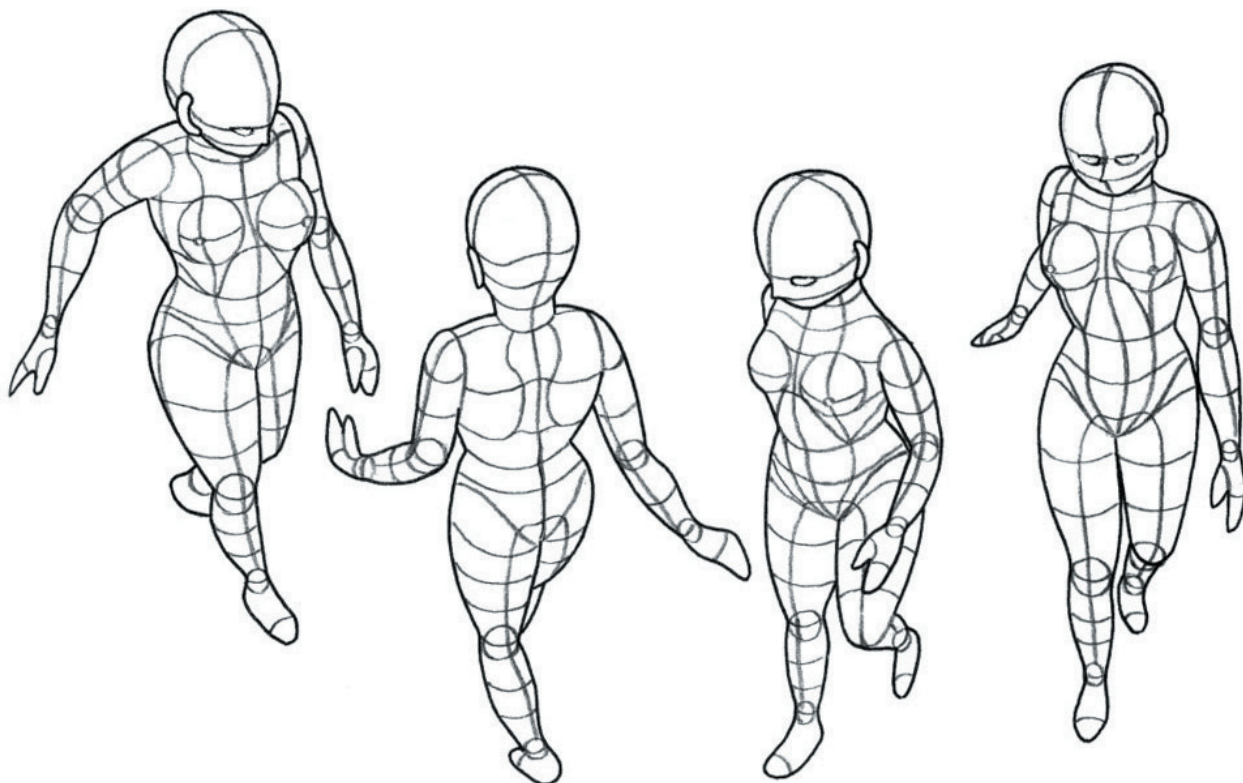
Degrees of Wetness

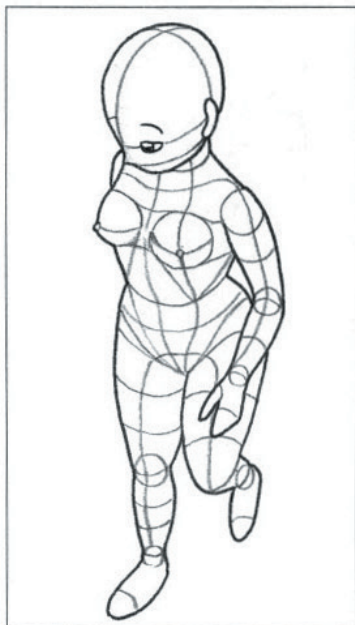
Drenched

Covered with sweat

Heavy sweat flying in every direction

Wire Frames

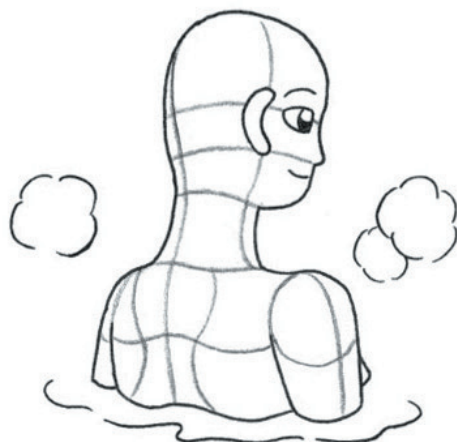
Getting a Grasp of the Body's Curves

From Low Angle

From High Angle

Using Wire Frames

Undergarments and clothing of all kinds generally conform to the contours of the body. Wire frames are especially helpful when drawing the ovoid curves at the neckline, the cuff of a sleeve, or the hem of a skirt.

The basic shape of a T-shirt and skirt

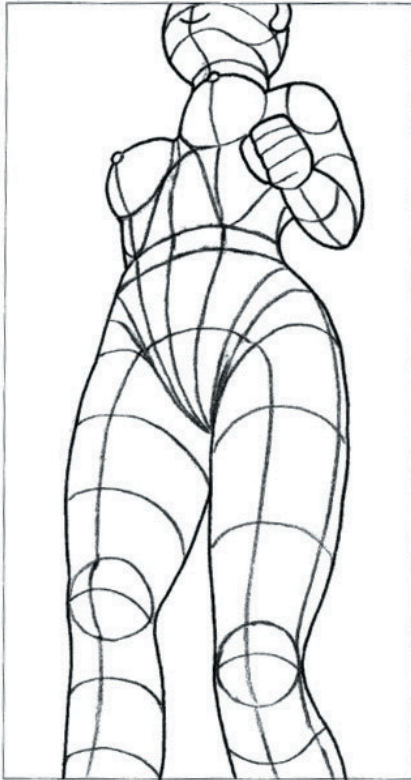
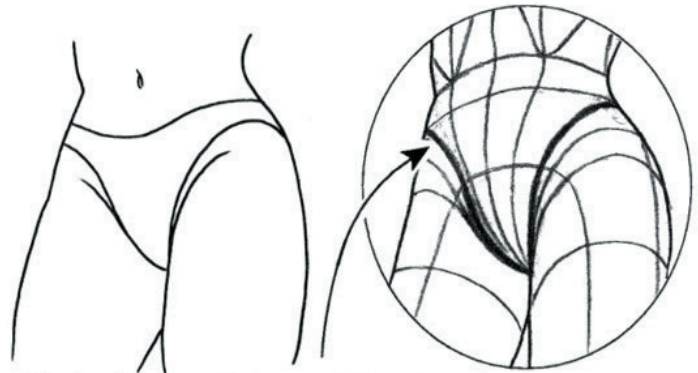
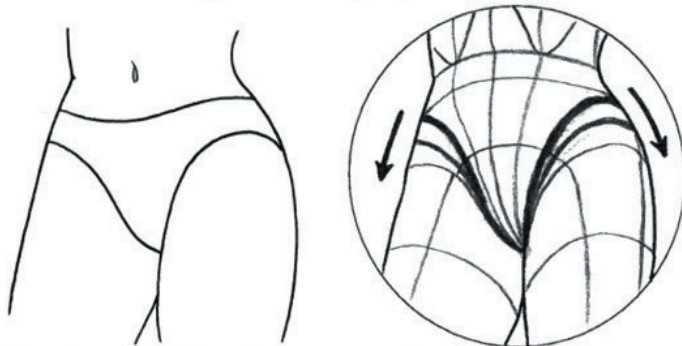
Clothing is in essence a figure's second skin.

1. Drawing clothing

When drawing a V-neck, use the vertical lines for reference.

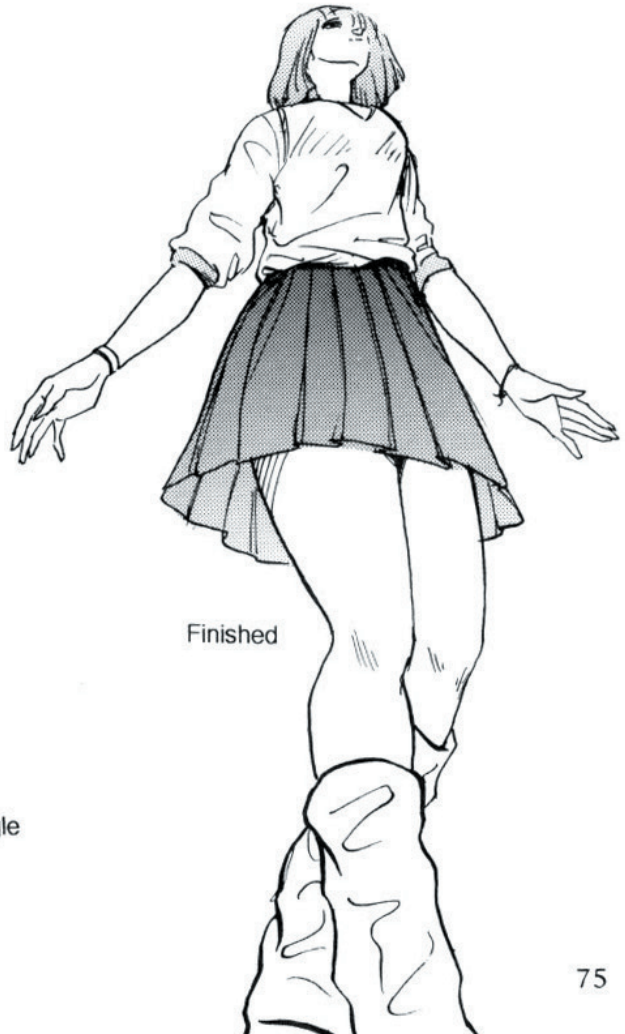
2. Drawing a figure in water

The surface of the water should follow the curves of the body.

3. Drawing logos

Refer to the wire frame when drawing logos and other designs on the clothing.

4. Drawing underpants

Following this line will give you high-cut panties.

Choosing a lower line gives a more ordinary cut.

5. Drawing skirts

Refer to the wire frame to figure out the curve of the skirt as seen from below.

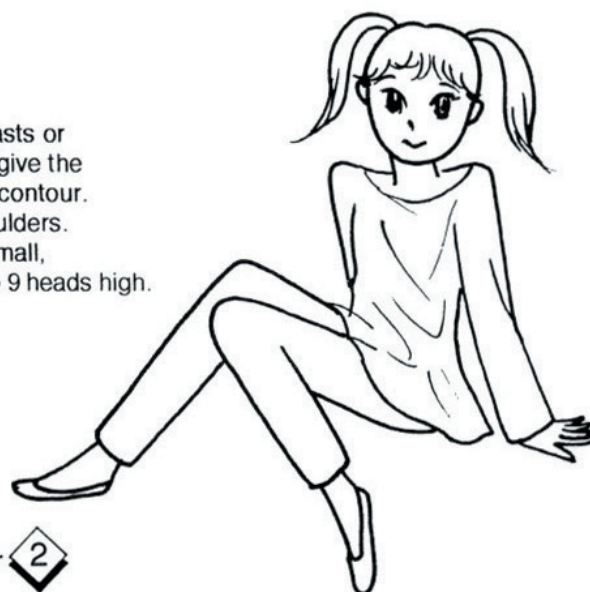
Draw the desired clothing over the frame to find the appropriate curve.

Wire frame of the desired angle

The frame also shows the curve of the socks.

Finished

What if you want to draw a female figure without drawing attention to the bust or hips?

Answer 1

1. Draw a long, slender neck.
2. Even if you don't draw breasts or hips, do taper the waist to give the figure a certain amount of contour.
3. Give the figure narrow shoulders.
4. Make the head relatively small, and draw a body about 7 to 9 heads high.

Answer 2

Draw the figure as slim and delicate. In this case, the shoulders can still be somewhat broad.

Answer 3

Draw a clear collarbone.

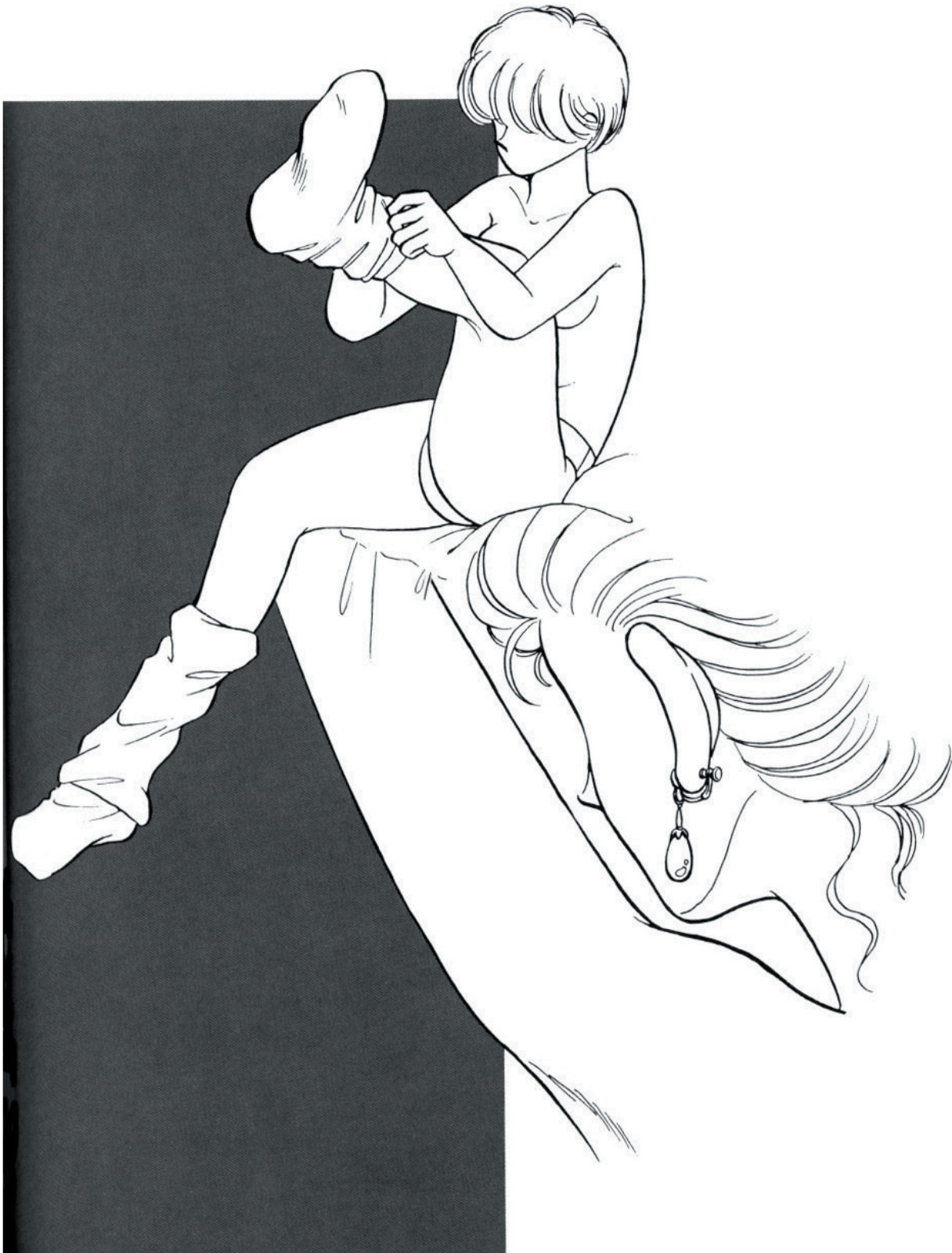
A boyish girl

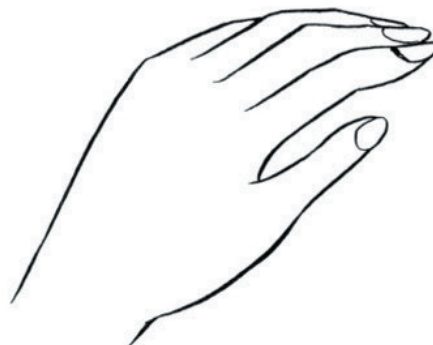
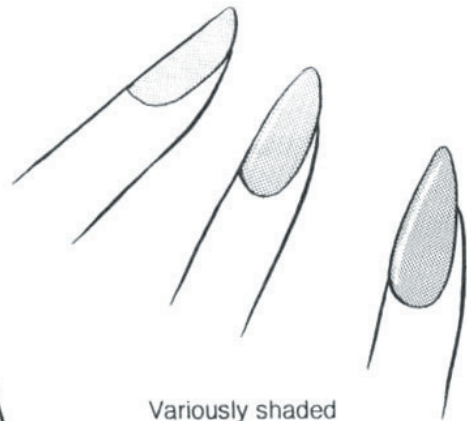
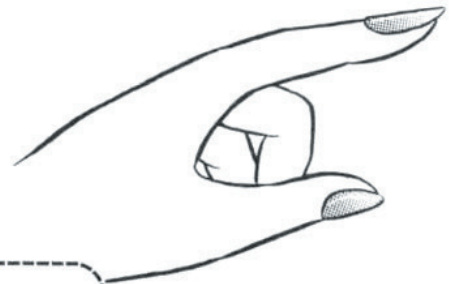
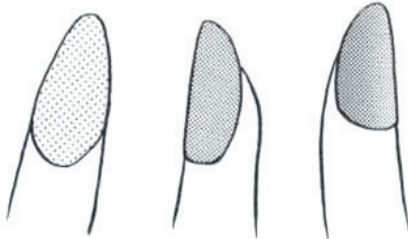
When drawing children, there is almost no difference between male and female figures.

Answer 4

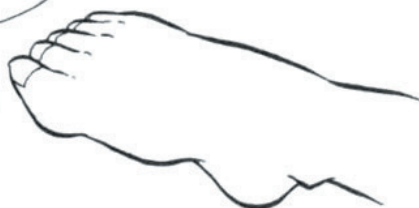
1. Use facial features, hair style, or clothing fashions to distinguish grown women and little girls.
2. Draw straight, skinny legs.

Chapter 3

Drawing the Female Figure: Using Detail for Effect

Different Types of Nails

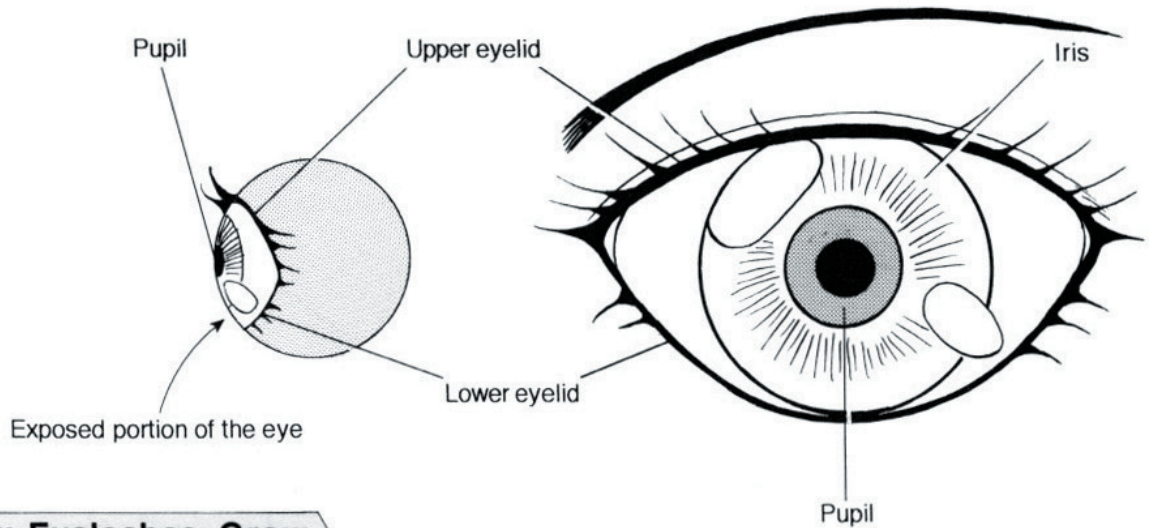
Examples of Hands and Nails

Showing Manicured Nails

Customarily, red and green nails are spotted black or represented with a graduated screentone, light pink and yellow nails are represented with a light screentone in the #10 to #19 range, while blue nails are represented with a #42 or #52 screentone.

Toenails

Neatly clipped

Front view

View from above

Eyes, Eyelids, and Eyelashes

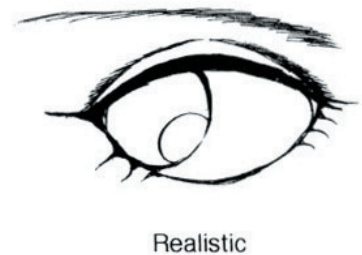
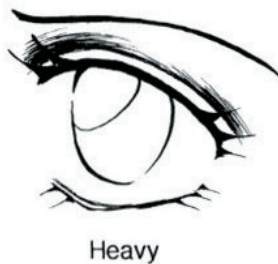
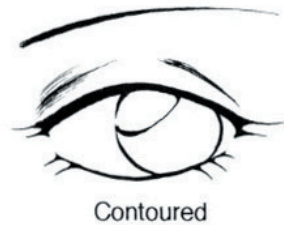
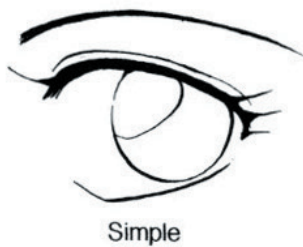
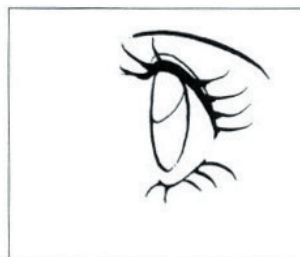
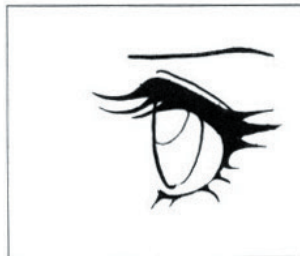
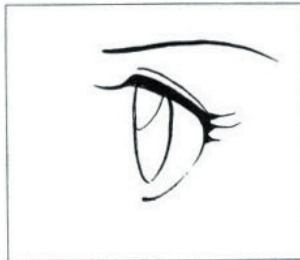
The Structure of the Eye

How Eyelashes Grow

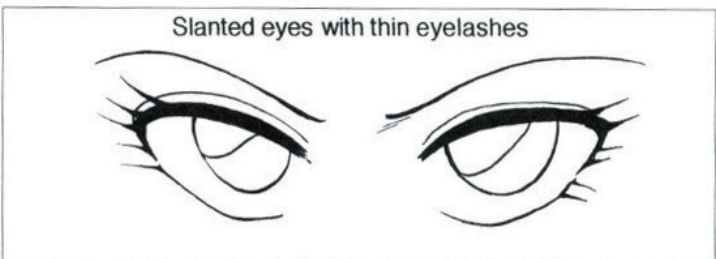
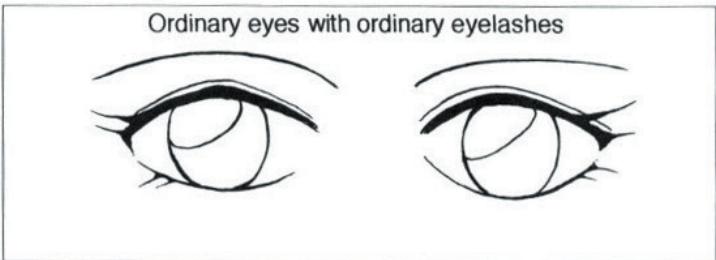
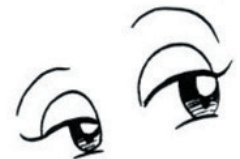
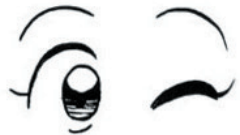
A Selection of Eyelids with Folds

Simple

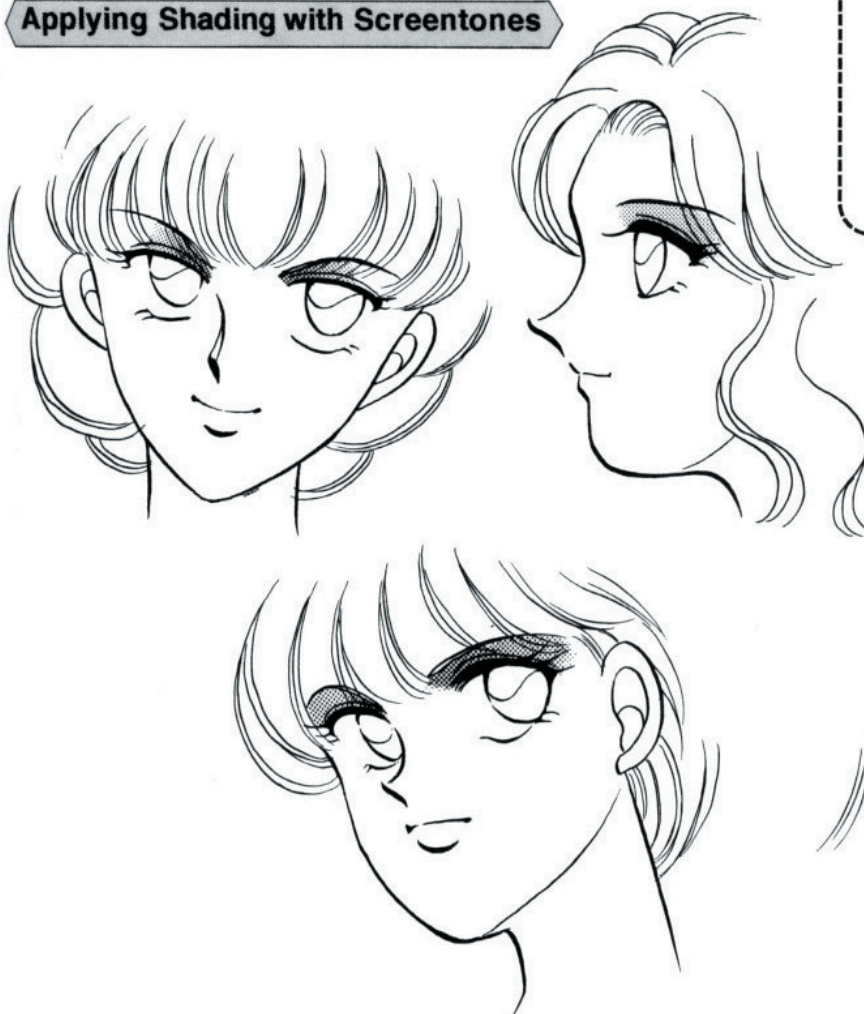
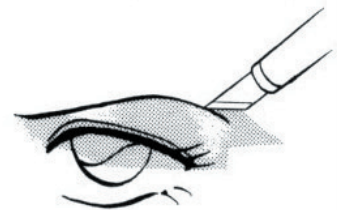
Contoured

Heavy

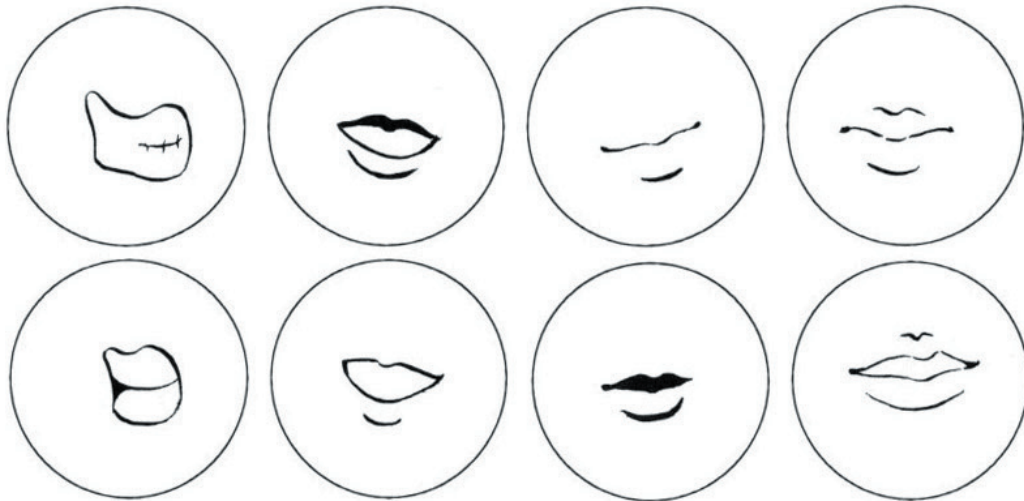
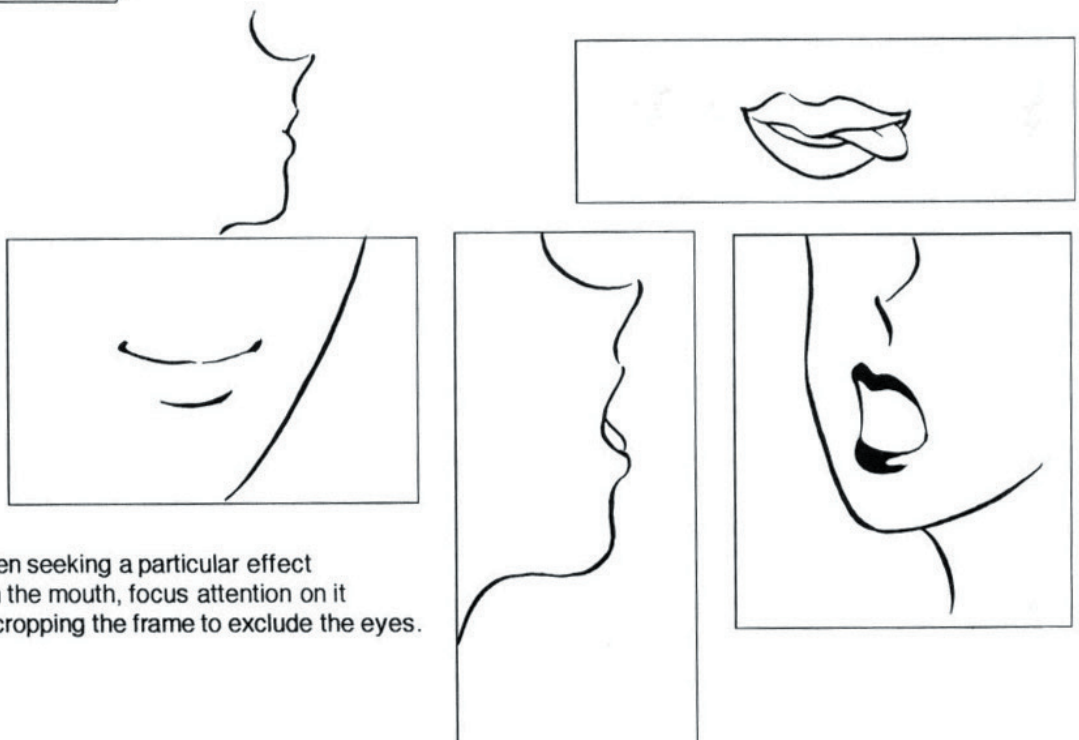
Realistic

Slanted eyes are slanted even when viewed from the side

Different Types of Eyelashes

Slanted eyes with thin eyelashes

Ordinary eyes with ordinary eyelashes

Ordinary eyes with thick eyelashes

Heavily made-up eyes with four-way false eyelashes

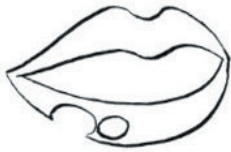
Eyelashes from Different Angles

Pen-Drawn Shading
To apply shading with a pen, draw thin lines.
Applying Shading with Screentones
Shading in Three Easy Steps
1. Apply the desired screentone.
2. Determine where light should strike and scrape off the shading.
3. Cut away the excess.
Finished

The Mouth and Lips

The Shape of the Lips

You can achieve many different effects with the mouth according to what aspect you choose to highlight.

Special Effects

When seeking a particular effect with the mouth, focus attention on it by cropping the frame to exclude the eyes.

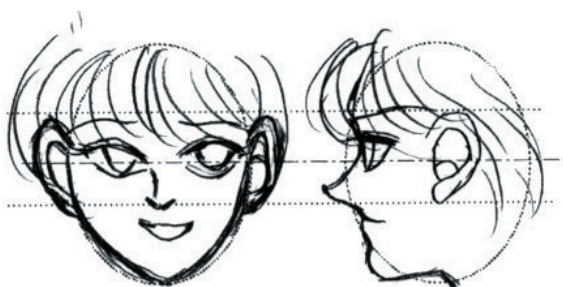
Effects You Can Achieve with Black and Shading

Accenting the outline

Solid black plus hatching

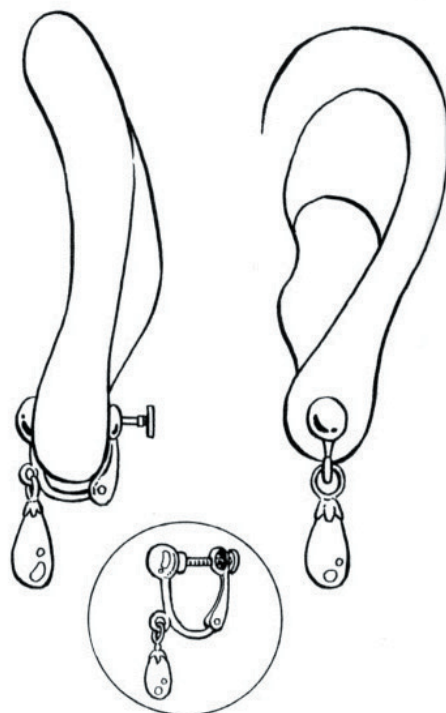
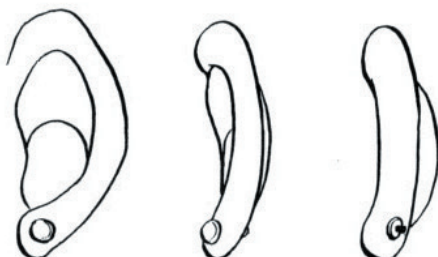
Solid black plus screentones

The Ears and Earrings

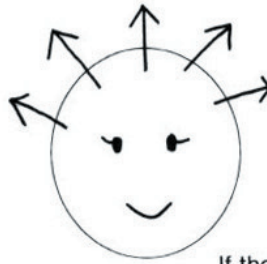
Since earrings are small, they are almost always drawn to obtain a very particular effect. It's important to think carefully about what view of the ear will offer the desired effect.

Some Tips on Ears and Earrings

The top of the ear is on the same level as the eyebrows, and the bottom of the ear is level with the base of the nose.

When viewing the side of the head, the ear is at the center.

An ear with a pierced earring at different angles

The Hair

Hair styles are determined primarily by two characteristics: how stiff the hair is, and how much of it there is.

The Difference Between Coarse Hair and Fine Hair

Typical hair styles

Hair Density

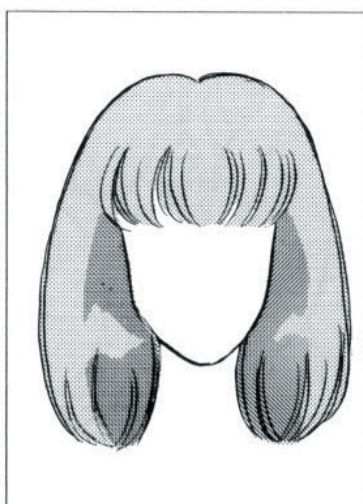
Coloring the Hair

Outline only

Solid black

Graduated screentones, scraped

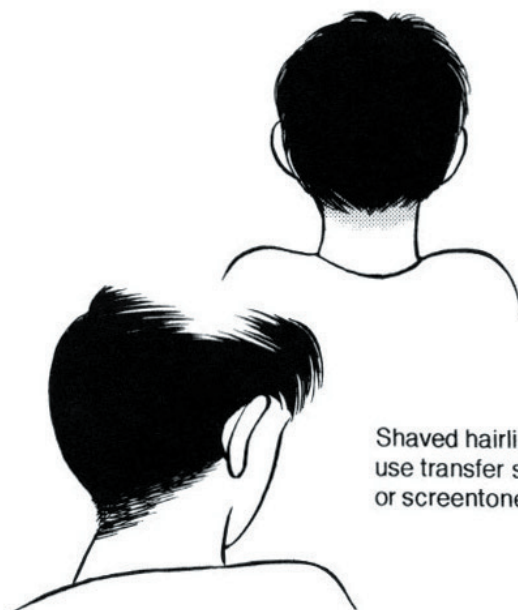
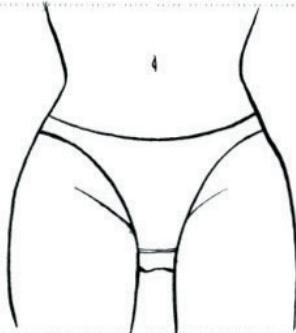
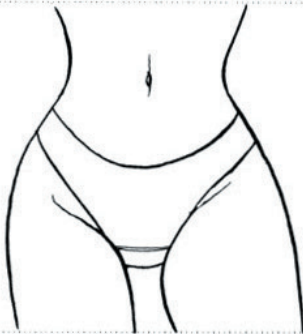
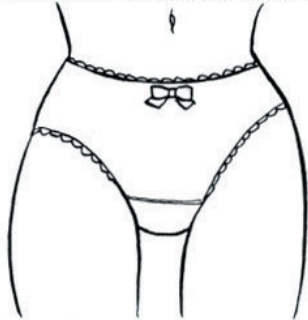
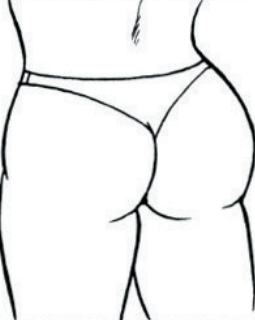
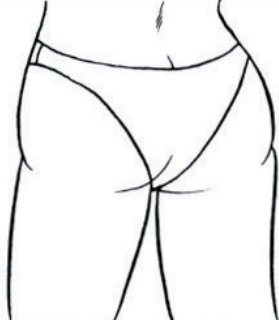
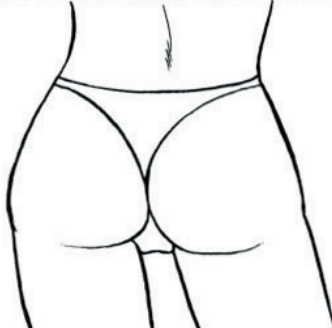
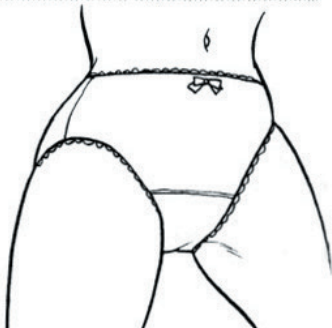
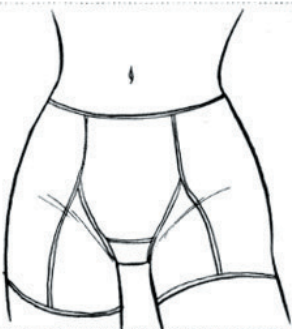
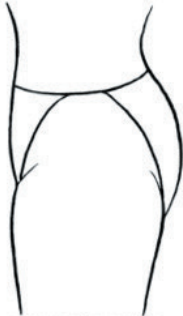
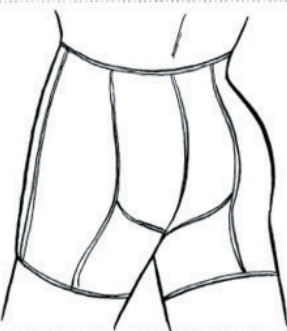
Pen work only

Black with white highlights

Layered screentones

Pen work and screentones

Black with white highlights

Black with scraped screentones

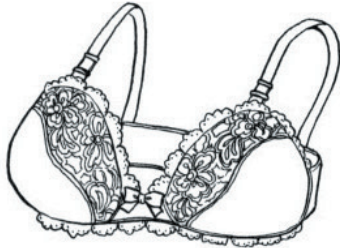
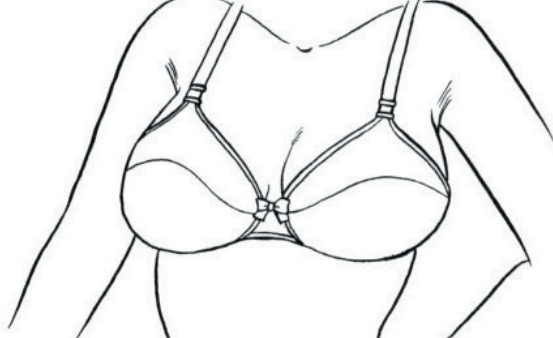
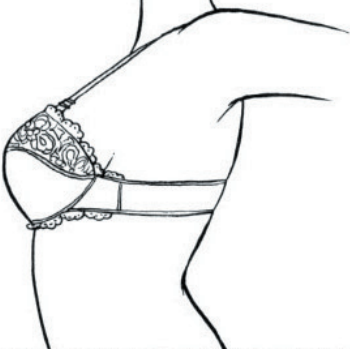
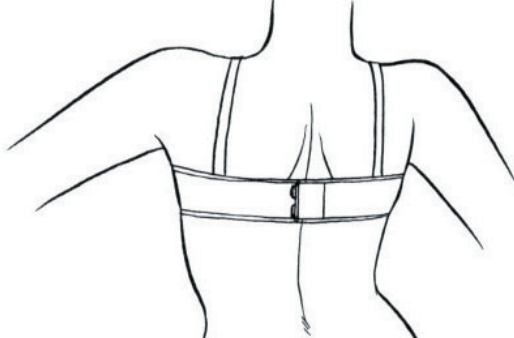
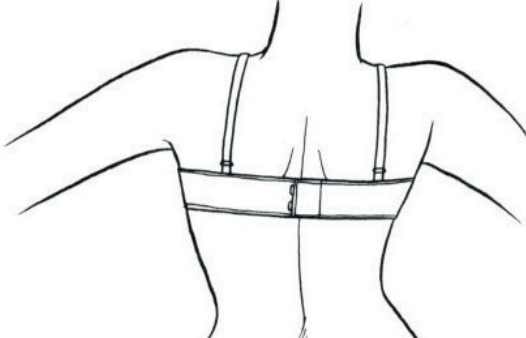
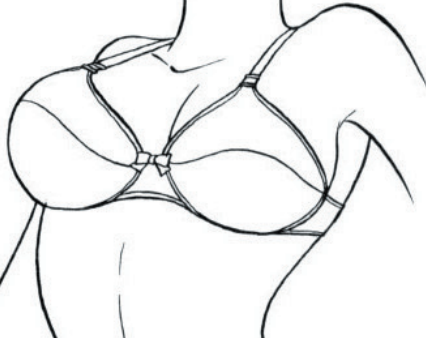
Tips for Drawing Hair

A Catalogue of Undergarments

1. Underpants

T-thongs	High-cut	Ordinary

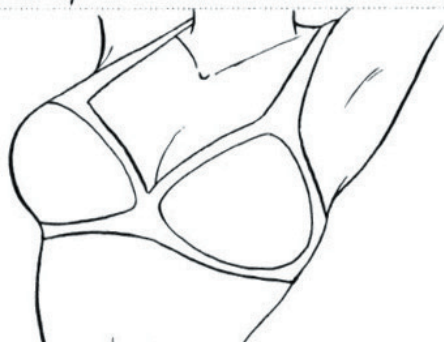
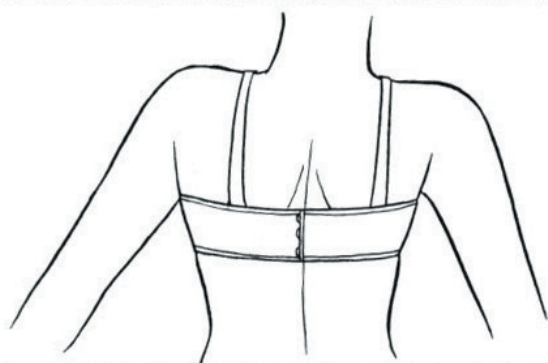
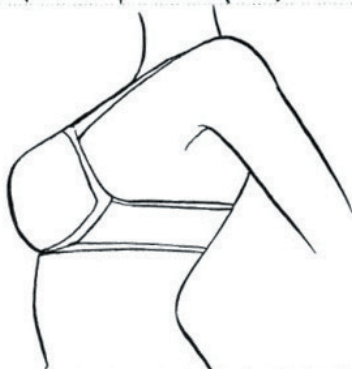
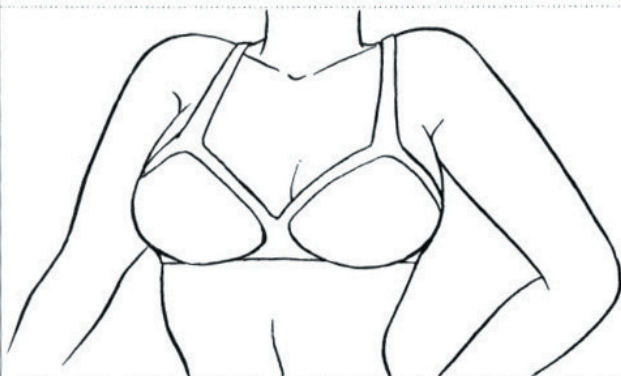
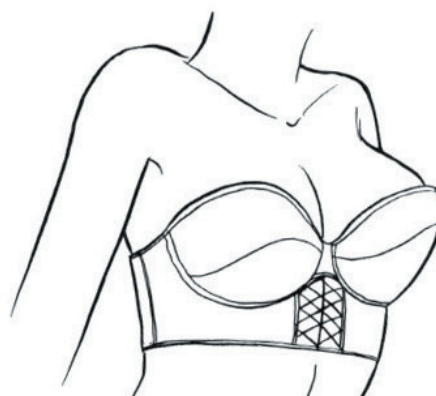
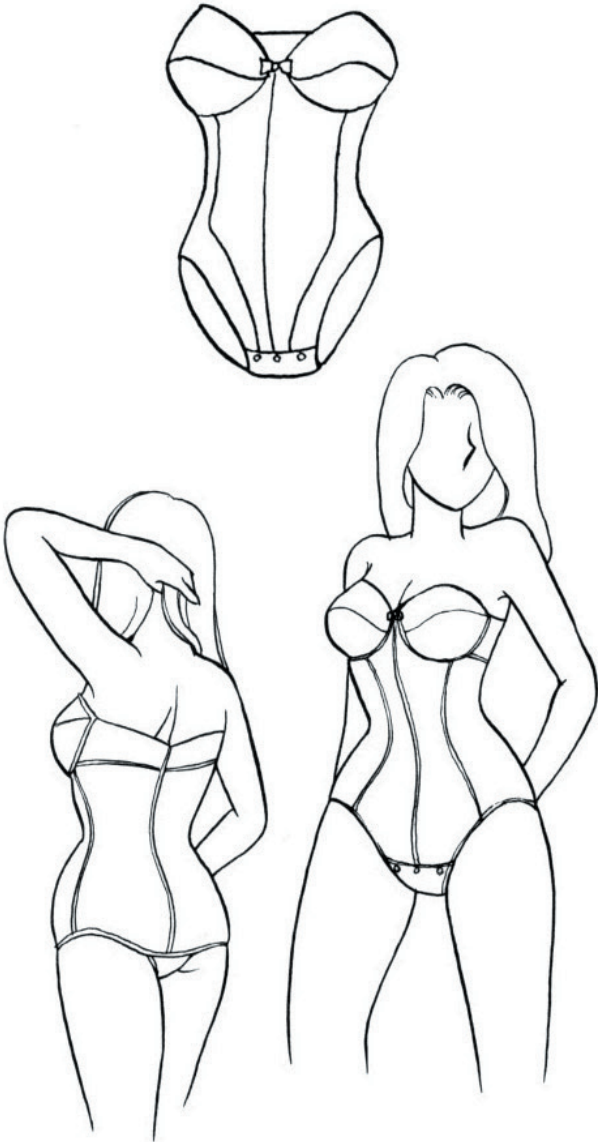
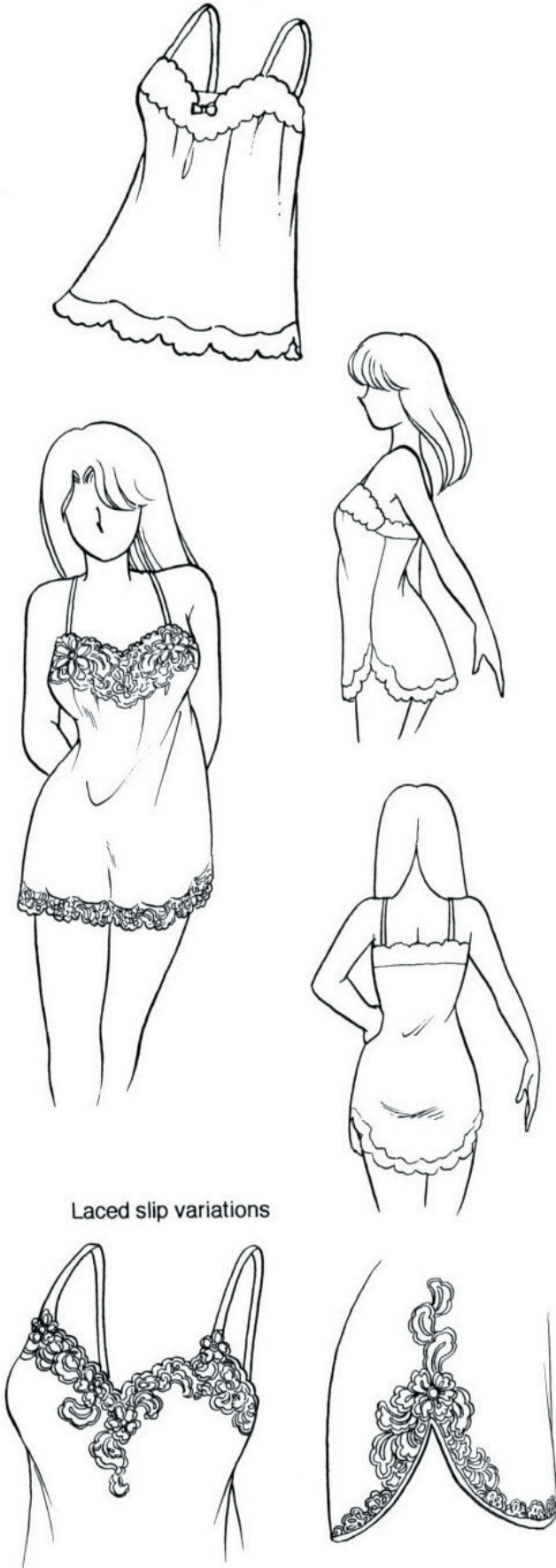
String panties	Girdle

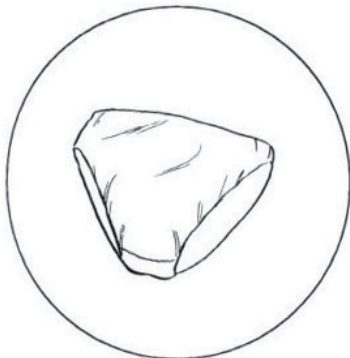
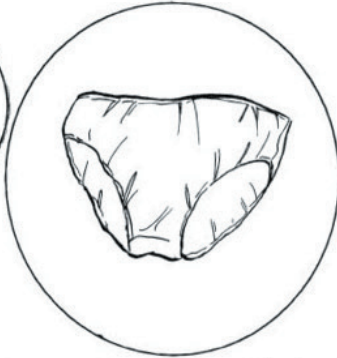
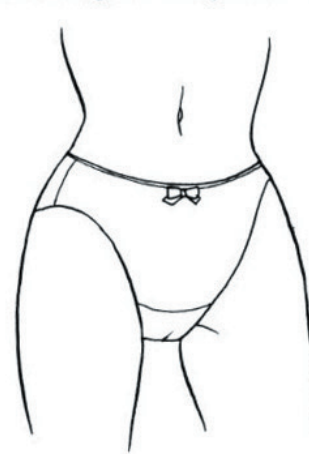
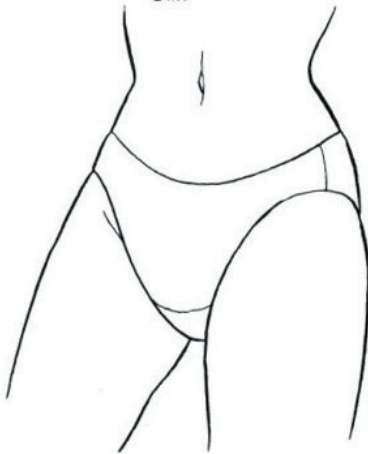
Miscellaneous

Ordinary with lace on back

Ordinary with lace throughout

High-cut with lace throughout

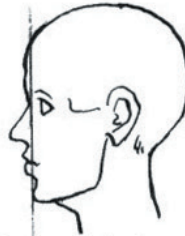
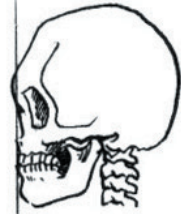
2. Bras

Sporty

Miscellaneous

3. Other Items

Underpants: The Different Look of Different Fabrics
When not being worn
Silk
Light weight puckering fabric
Standard weight cotton-synthetic mix
Silk
· Hugs body curves faithfully.
· Wrinkles appear as very delicate lines.
Standard weight cotton-synthetic mix
· Draw only the outline and seams of the panties.
· A plain look, with the feeling that the panties hug the contours of the body.
Light weight puckering fabric
· Draw wrinkles along the top and bottom hems.
· A few wrinkles follow the contours at the crotch and hips.

Q&A What are the secrets to drawing faces in profile?

Answer

Based strictly on bone structure, it is strange for the eyes to be set too far back from the nose, but in drawings, such a style may still be perfectly acceptable. There are many different ways in which the eyes, nose, and mouth can be distorted or exaggerated to good effect, so you can develop your own style without being too worried about actual bone structure.

In Egyptian drawing style, the face is presented in profile, but the eye gazes straight out at the viewer.

Outline of the head: even the mouth protrudes quite a bit.

Bone structure: the face is nearly flat.

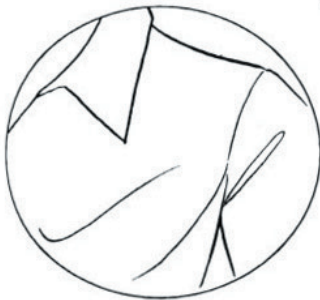
Realistic

Manga style

Shojo manga style

Illustration

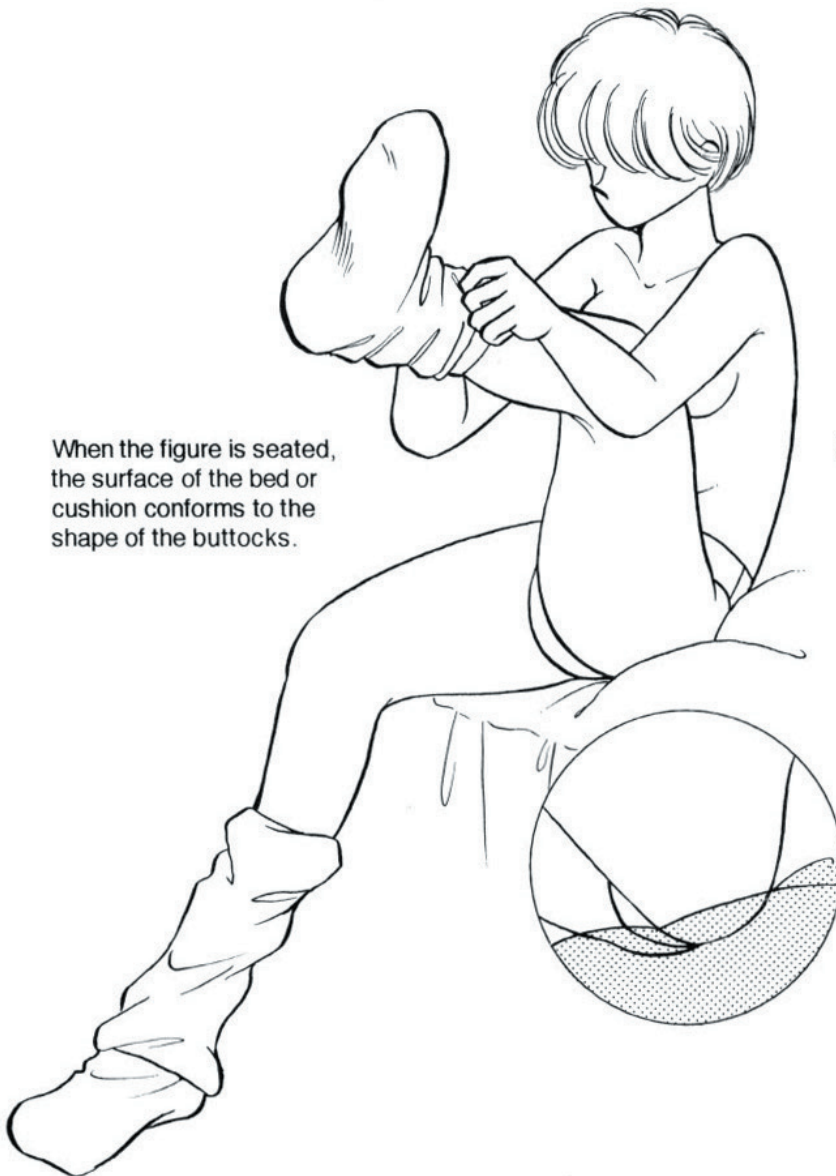
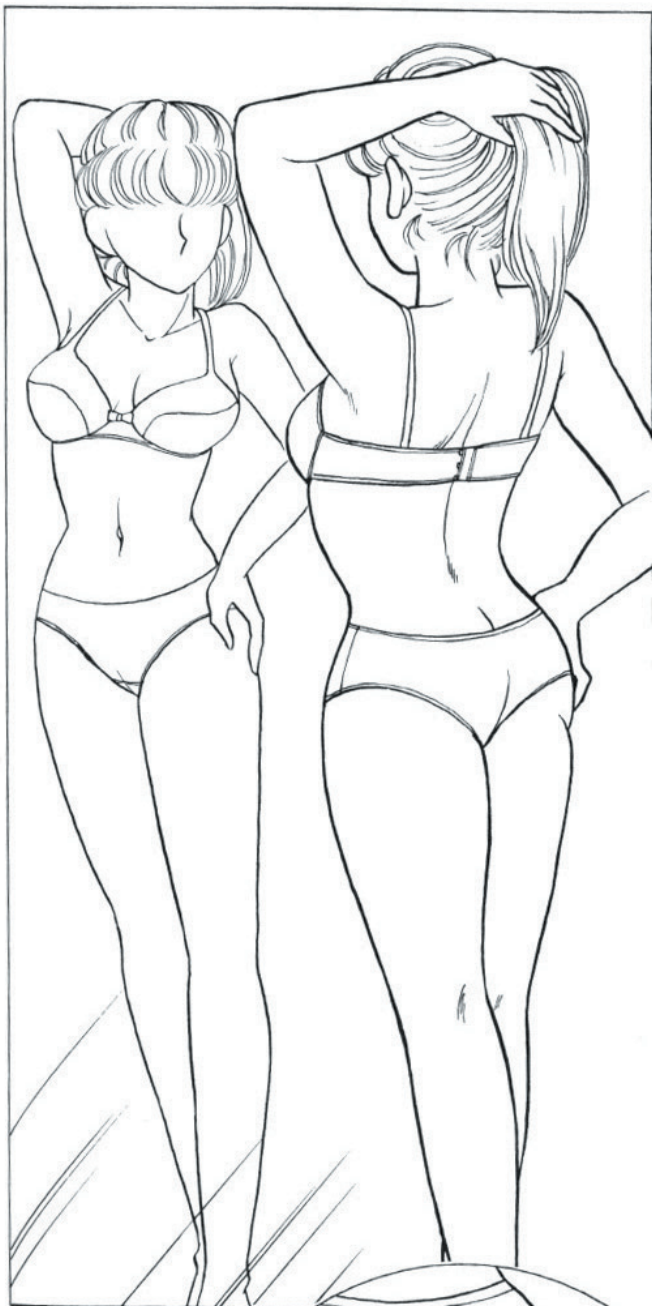
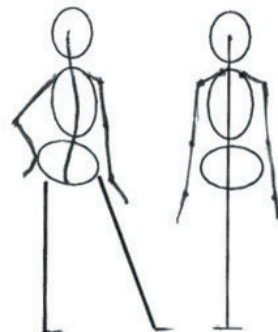
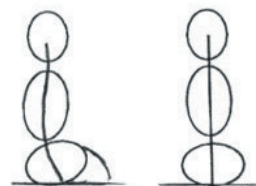
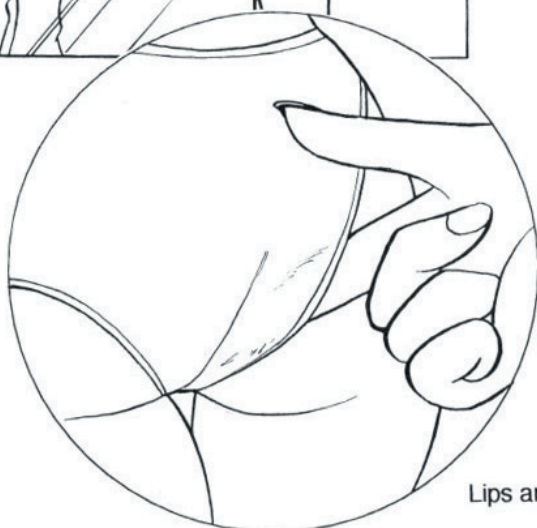
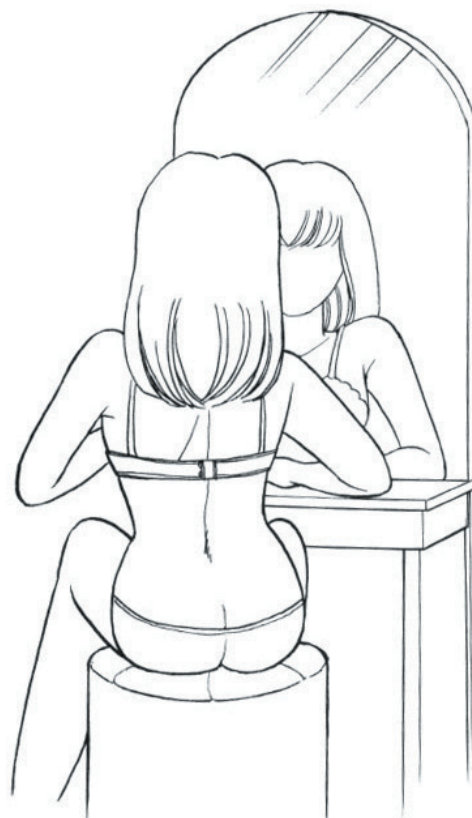
The Female Figure Goes to School

1. Getting Dressed: The Blouse

Wrinkles in the blouse should be drawn with sharp, dynamic lines.

Use screentones to draw bra showing through blouse.

The bust with different blouses.

Fastening the bra

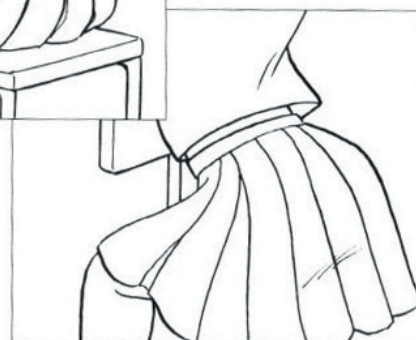
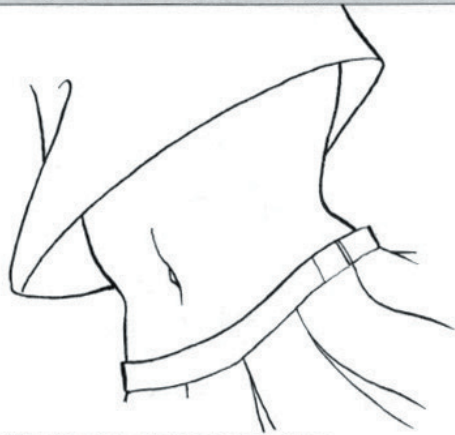
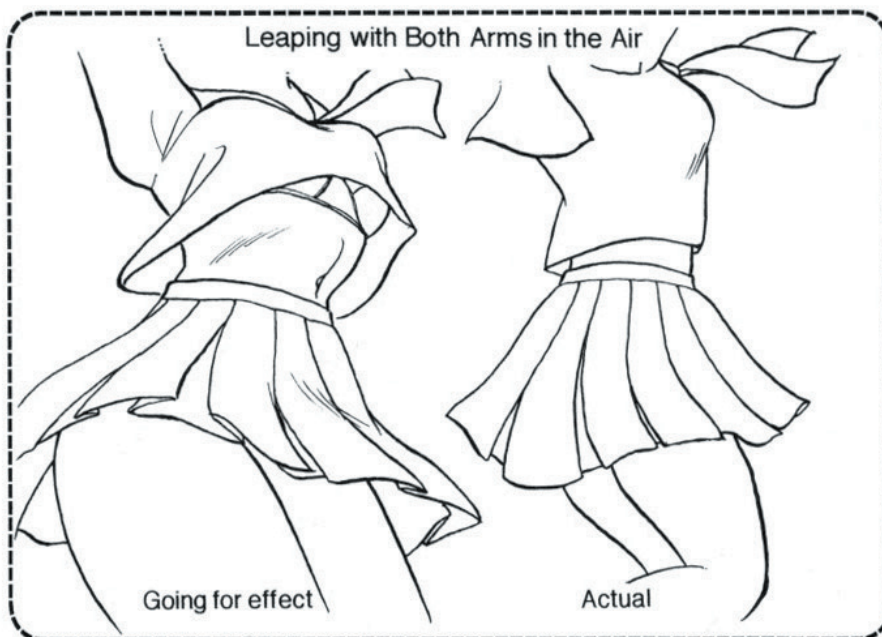
2. Getting Dressed: Shoes and Socks

3. Getting Dressed: In Front of the Mirror

Even when the character is simply standing or sitting straight, avoid making the figure completely rigid.

4. Running Down the Hallway

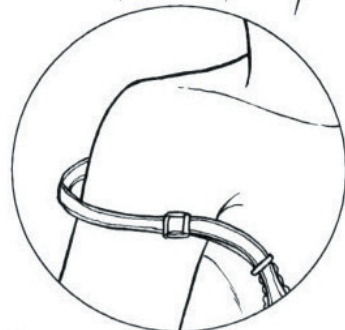
The thigh of a running figure. You can achieve the impression of dynamic motion by showing the ripple of the muscles.

In real life, the rear flap of the collar does not actually lift up so high.

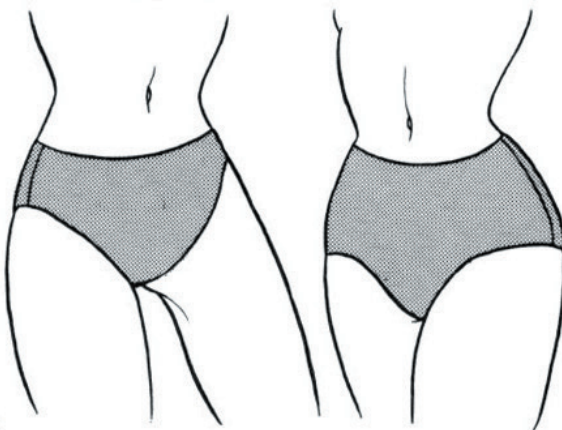
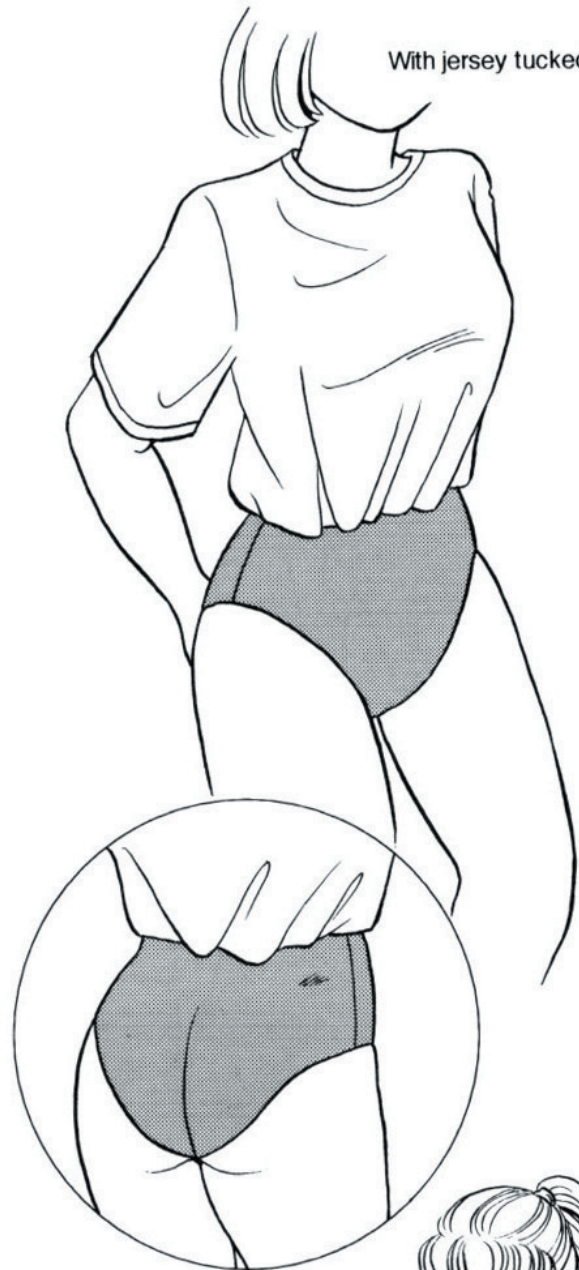
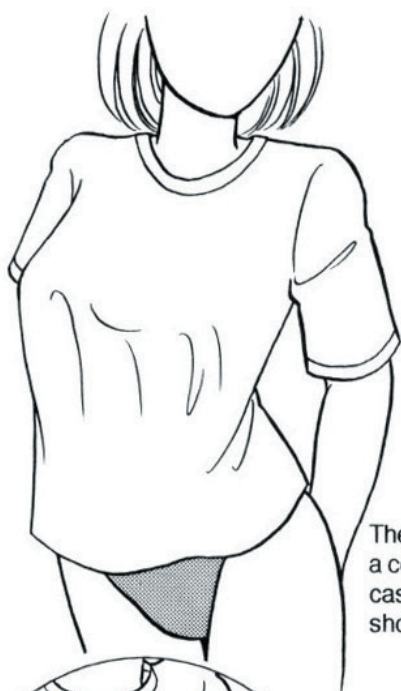
A sudden stop: momentum makes her skirt fly up.

5. Sitting on a Chair

The chest may be drawn in some detail at the neck line.

6. Jumping up in Joy: In School Uniform

7. In the Locker Room

Bunched up gym clothes should be drawn with soft, gentle lines to reflect the softness of the fabric.

Bra straps are usually made of sturdy material.

Use sharp but relatively few lines to draw wrinkles in the gym trunks. Loose socks should appear soft; how you draw the wrinkles depends on the kind of fabric.

8. Dressed for Gym Class

9. More Tips for Drawing Gym Clothes

The jersey is smooth, but also has a certain weight. A series of wrinkles cascading from the breast line shows the thrust of the bust.

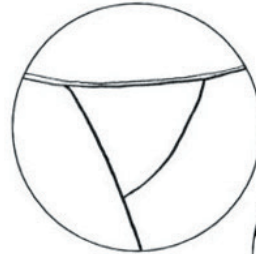
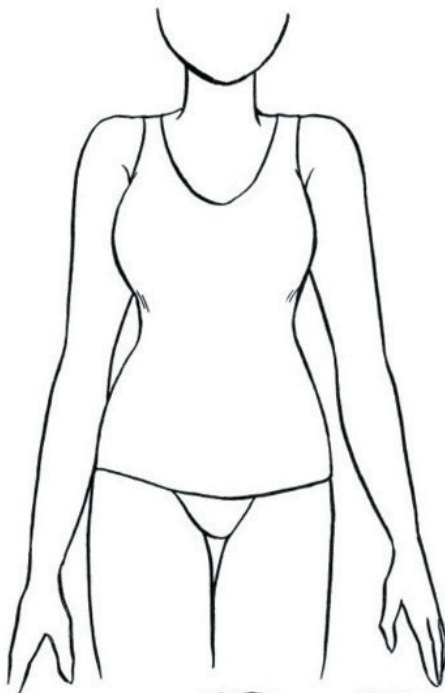
Wrinkles on the back typically appear around the shoulder blades and the waist.

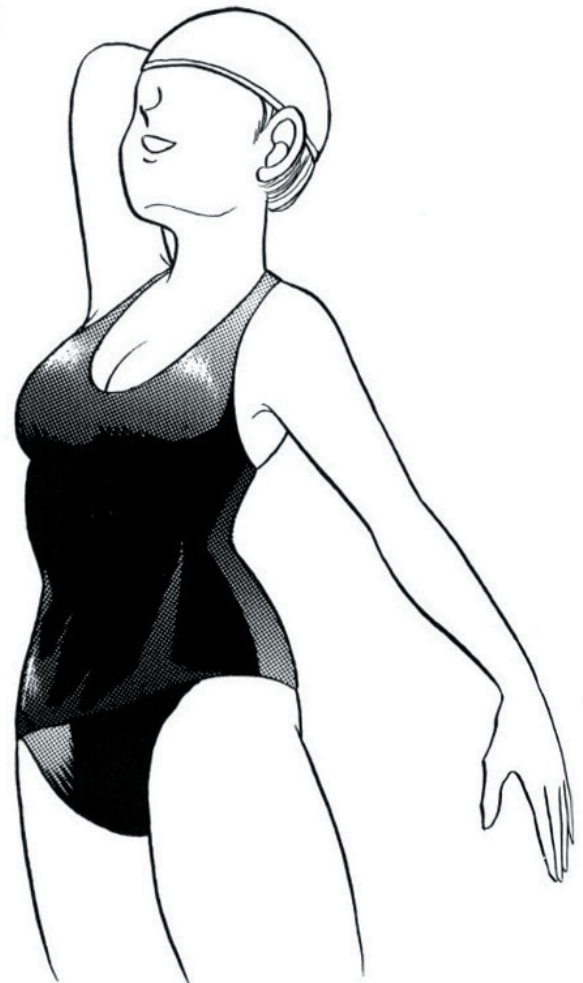
The lower abdomen:
You can use black and graduated screentones to achieve a sense of dimension.

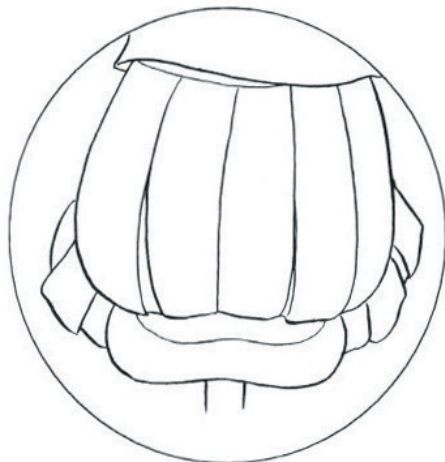
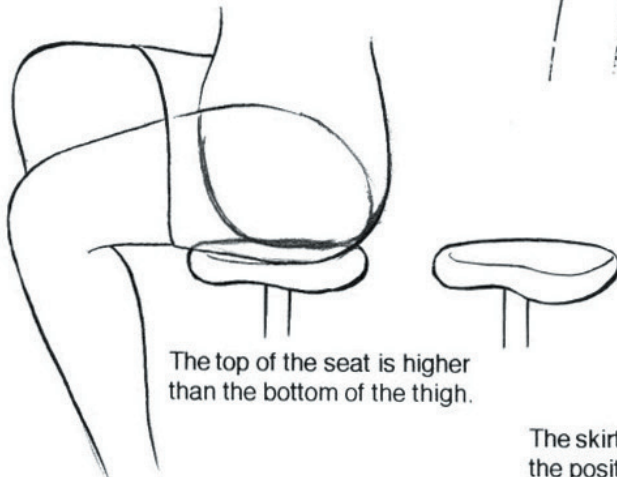
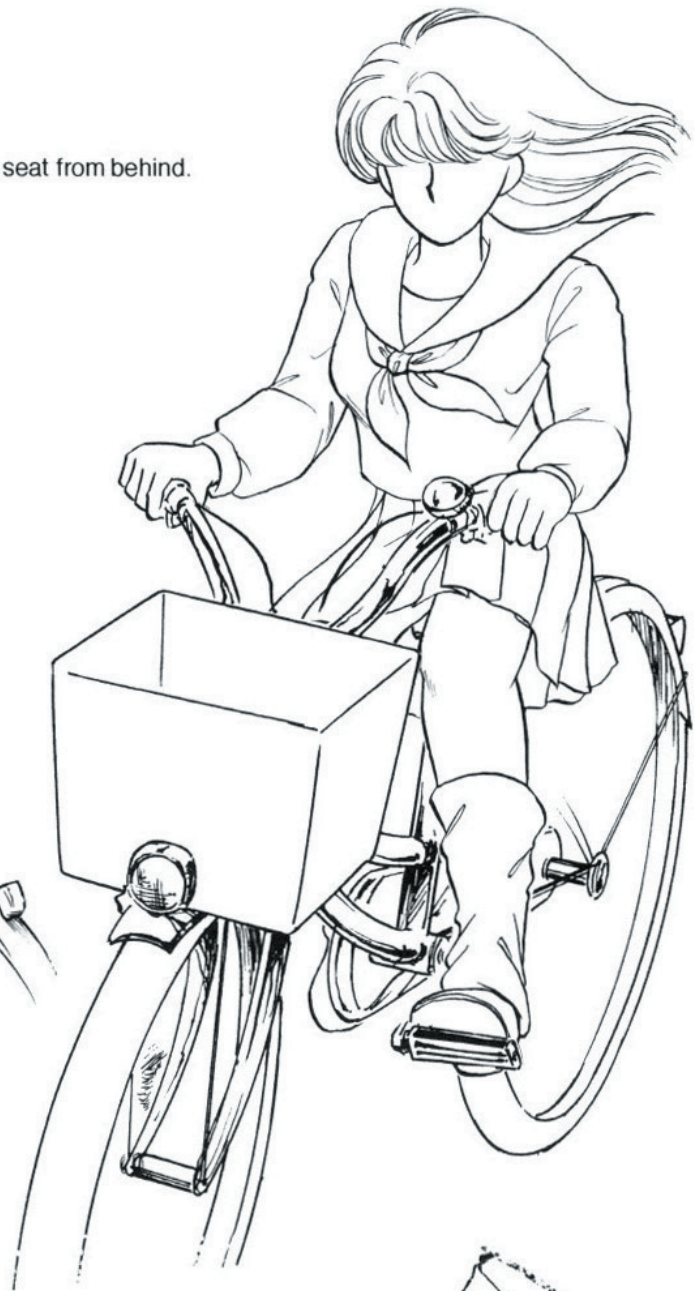
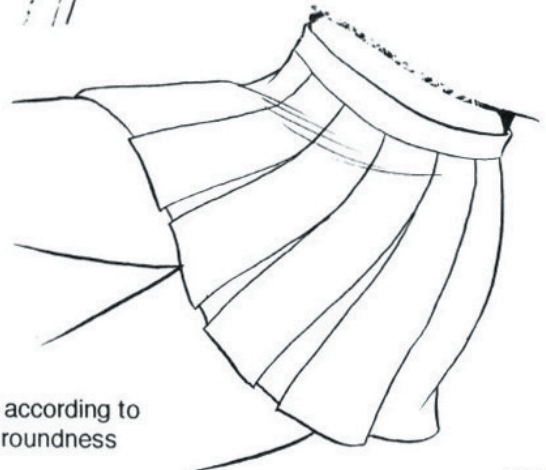
Black, with the lines of the buttocks shown in white. The way the buttocks appear to bulge out beneath the seams creates a realistic effect.

It is best not to draw too many wrinkles in the crotch.

Using transfer screens to show reflected light can give the buttocks of the trunks a feeling of volume.

10. Regulation Bathing Suits

Drawing all the seams makes the bathing suit look more realistic. Seams are normally found on the shoulder straps, along the sides, and across the crotch.

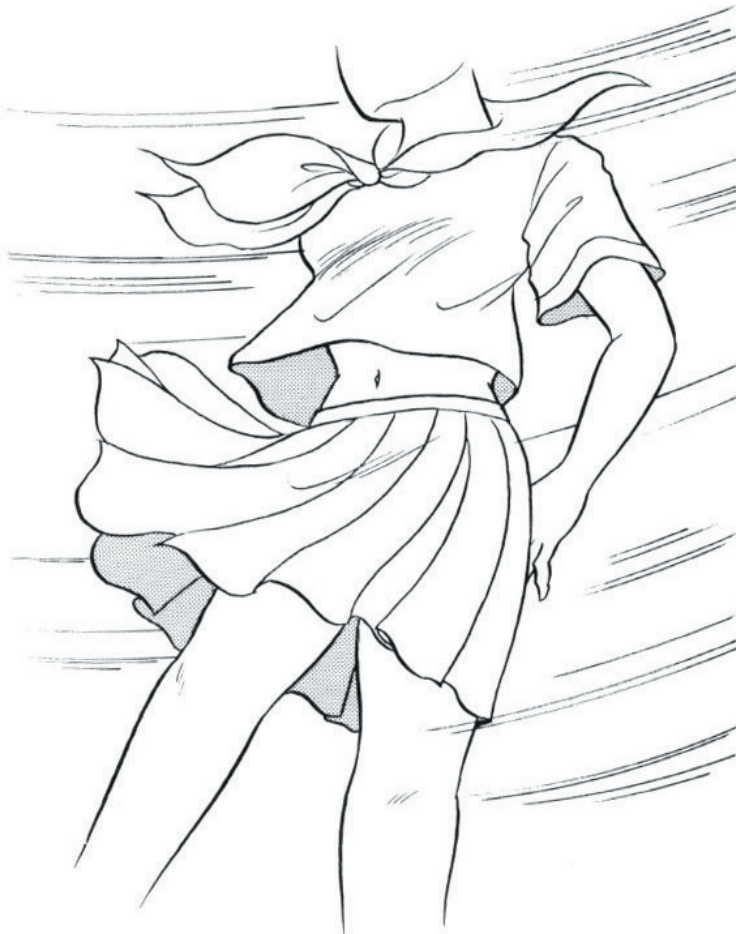
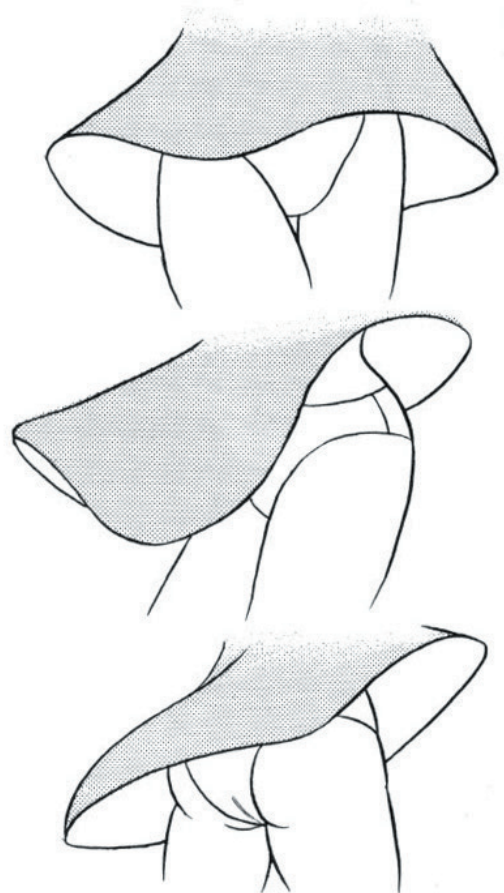
Tight wrinkles penned in along the side seams bring out the curvature of the body.

Use black and screen tones to create the impression of a wet bathing suit reflecting light.

11. Riding a Bicycle

12. On the Way Home: Walking Outdoors

Distinctions should be made between summer and winter uniforms. The summer fabric is light and shows more wrinkles, while the winter blouse should be drawn without many wrinkles.

In a gentle wind

Winter uniform:
the wind lifts the garments as a whole instead of merely wrinkling them in spots.

Summer uniform:
the wind creates localized wrinkles.

When showing a strong gust, summer and winter uniforms should both be drawn flapping in the wind.

When a skirt gets blown up in the wind, the arc of the hem shows the weight of the fabric.

Chapter 4

Learn from the Pros

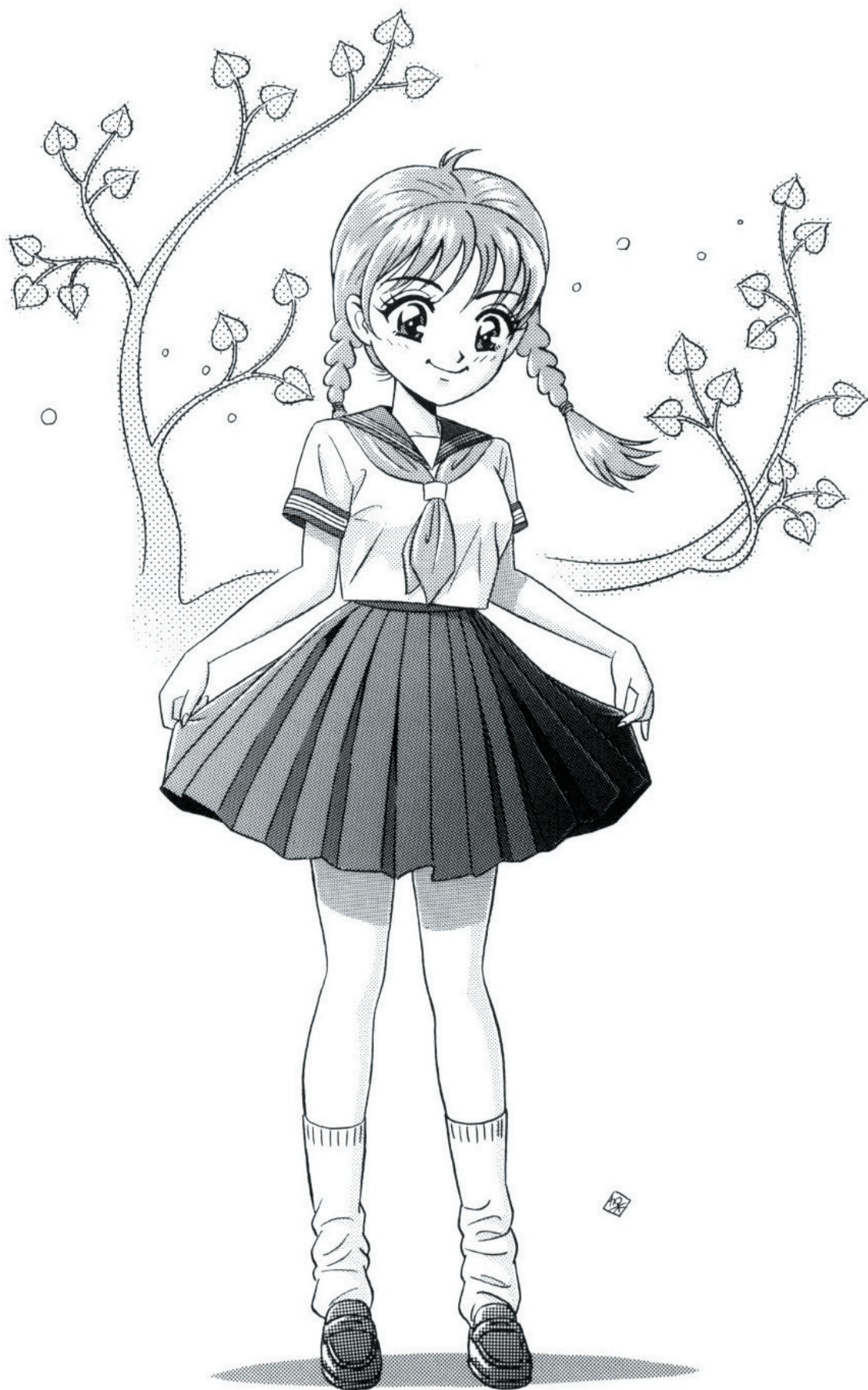
Girl in Middy Uniform

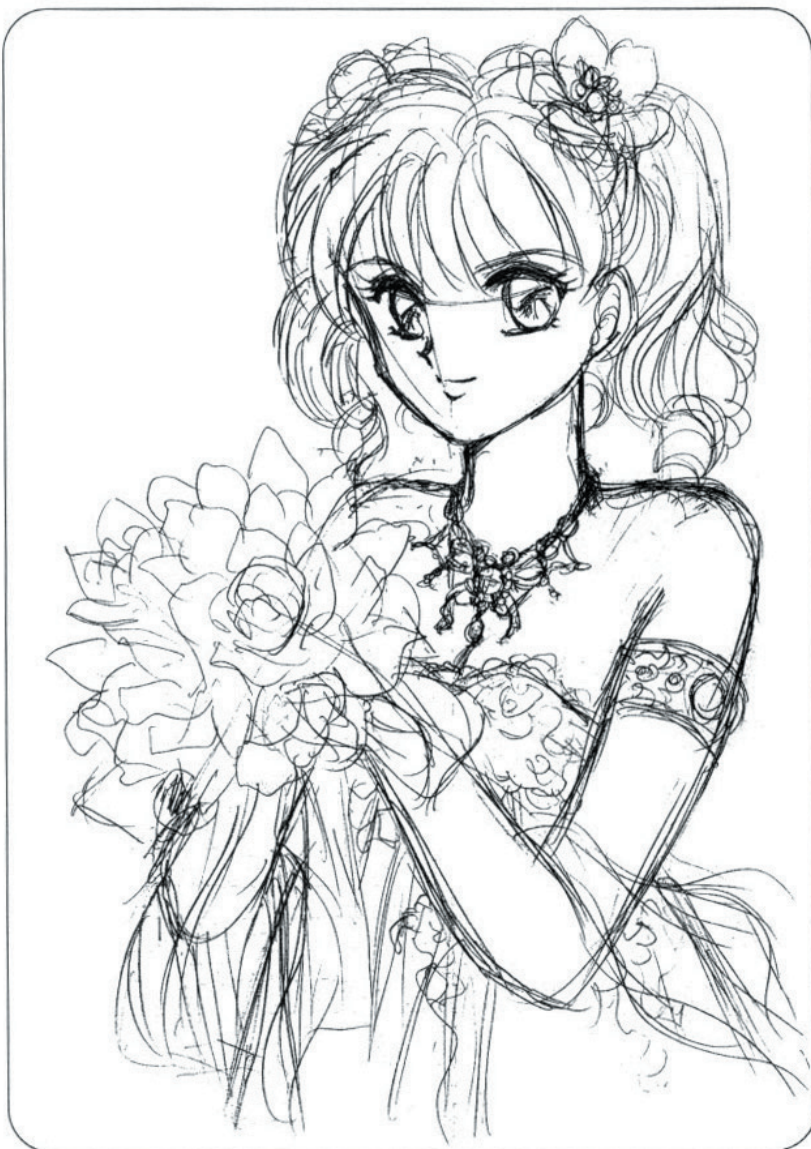
Drawn by Masaru Kaku

Adding some black accents when drawing the pleats brings a feeling of dynamic dimension to a skirt that would otherwise appear flat and dull.

Line drawing

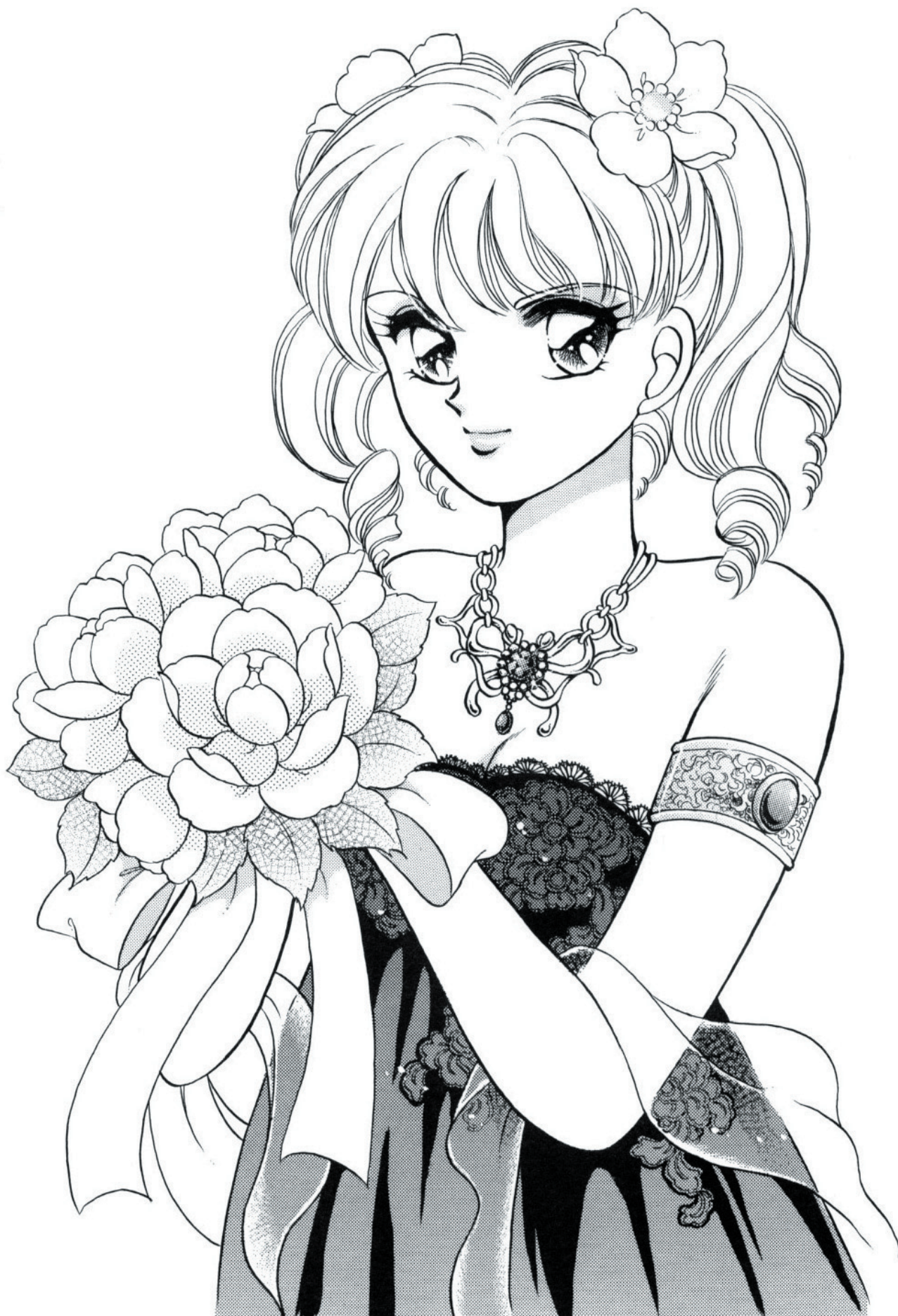
Narrow Shoulders for a Youthful Effect

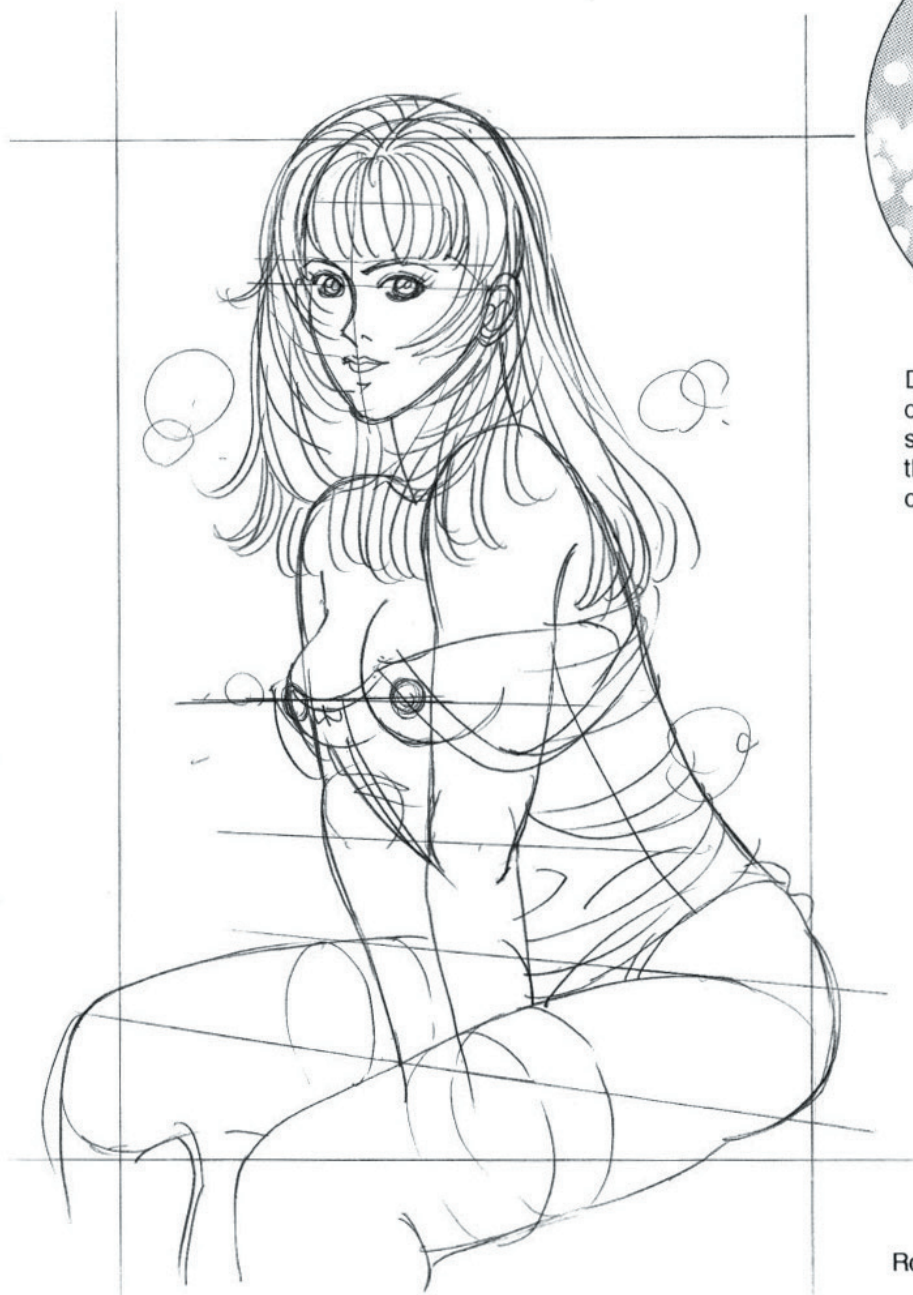
- Narrow shoulders and a trim figure offer the image of a cute young teenager. Since narrow shoulders make the head look larger, it typically leads to a childish look. But give her some curves and long, shapely legs, and she becomes a vivacious teenager.
- A waist narrower than her shoulders and the lines that show her breasts swelling against her blouse let us see her shapely figure even through her clothes. Also, the lines of her thighs suggest the well-rounded buttocks from which they grow.

Beauty with Bouquet

Drawn by Jun Matsubara

Curled hair is a hallmark of girls comics (shojo manga). Here, a dozen or so lines twist together to form each tress, and you can see how the delicately curving lines and the varying widths of white space between them combine to give the curls a remarkable feeling of volume.

Rough sketch

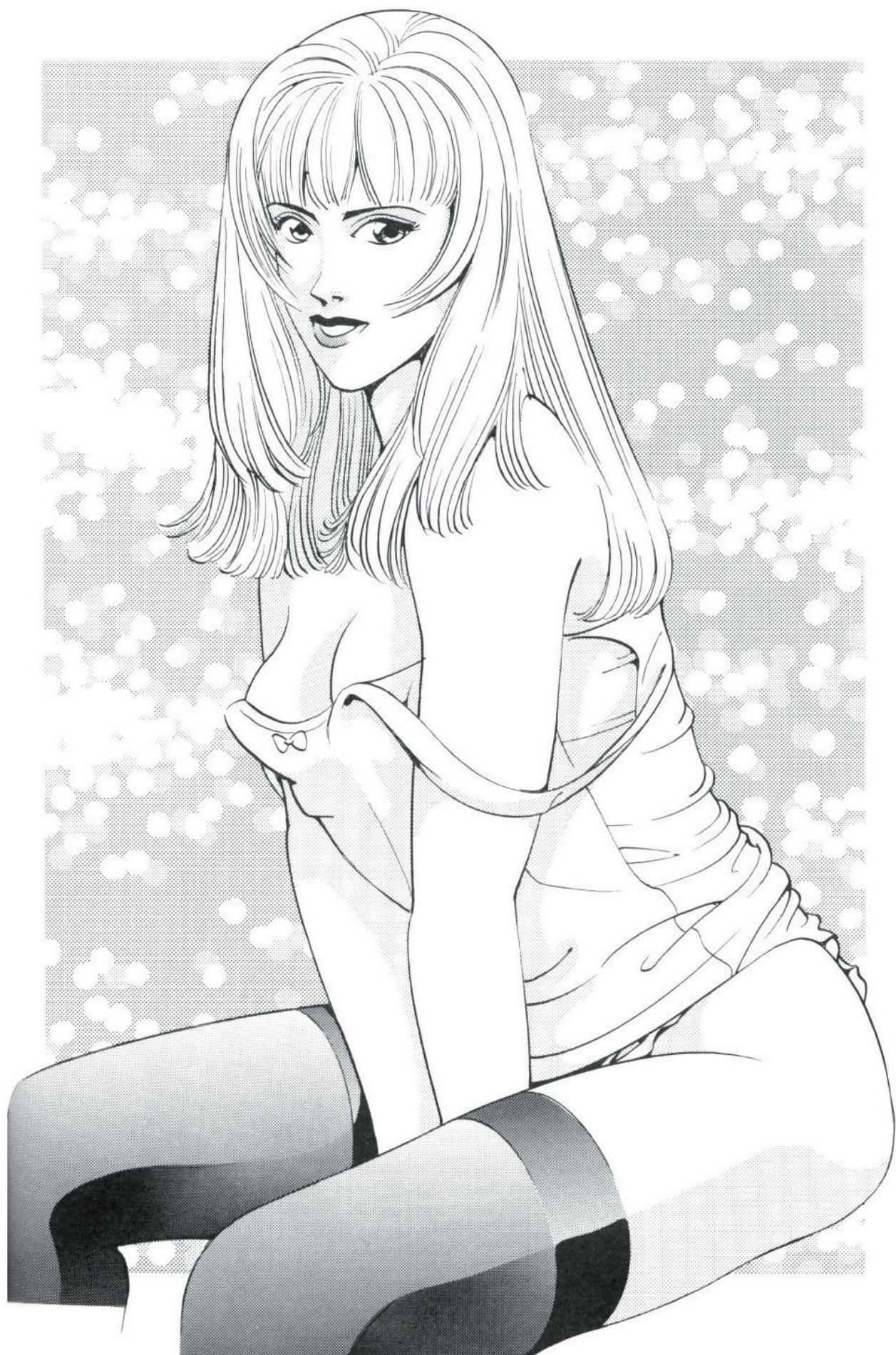
Preserve Your Original Conception through Attention to Detail

- Start by blocking out the overall image, and then work up a complete rough sketch. If you go ahead and rough in the flowers and other accessories at this stage, you should be able to proceed with confidence and finish with a drawing that remains quite faithful to your original conception.
- When you pick up your pen to complete a rough sketch like this, you must have a clear vision of the final drawing you wish to create, and your pen must be controlled by a very precise sense of where each line must go.

Alluring Adult

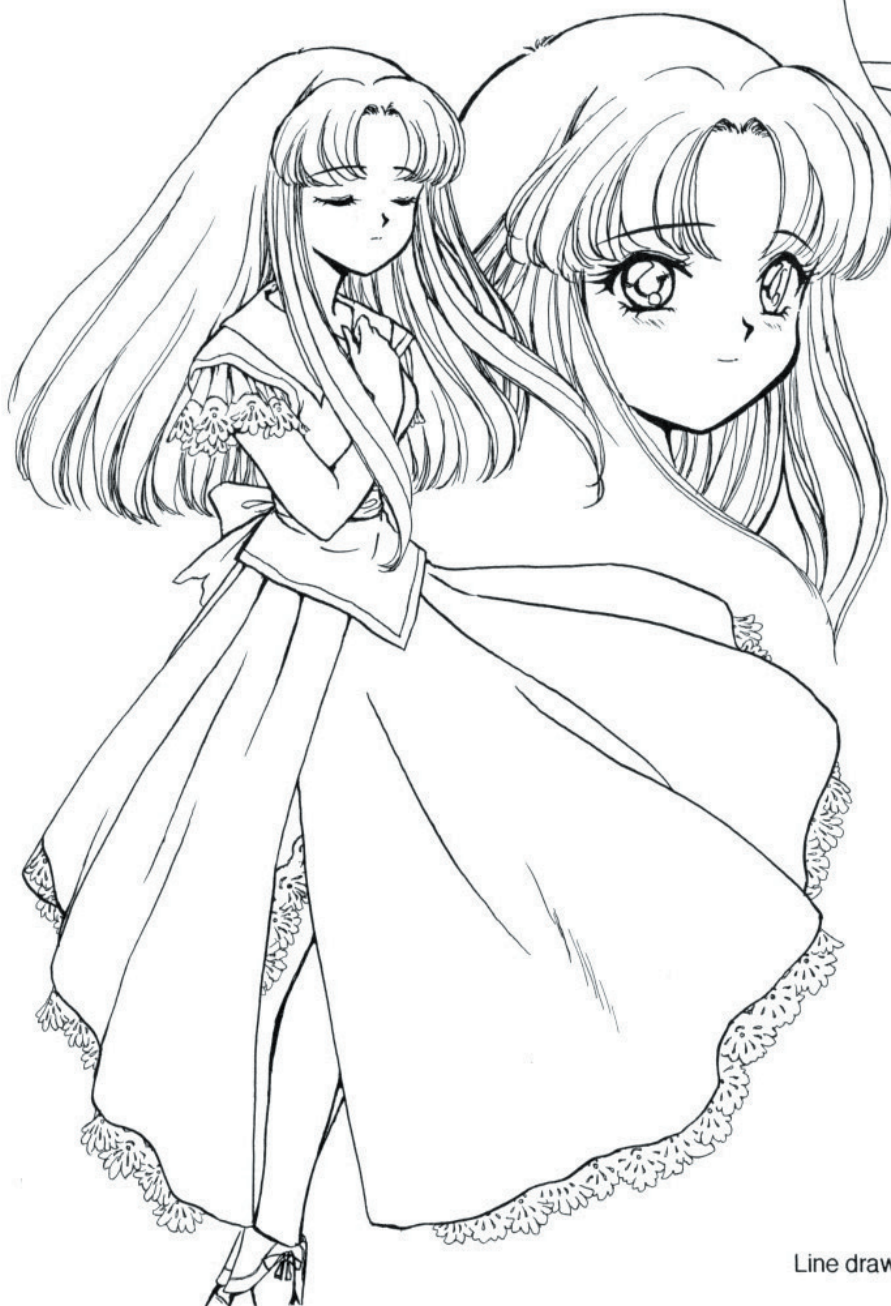
Drawn by Yasuo Matsumoto

Draw the lines showing the swelling of the breasts sharp, thin, and smoothly in order to bring out the natural softness and vitality of the flesh.

Rough sketch

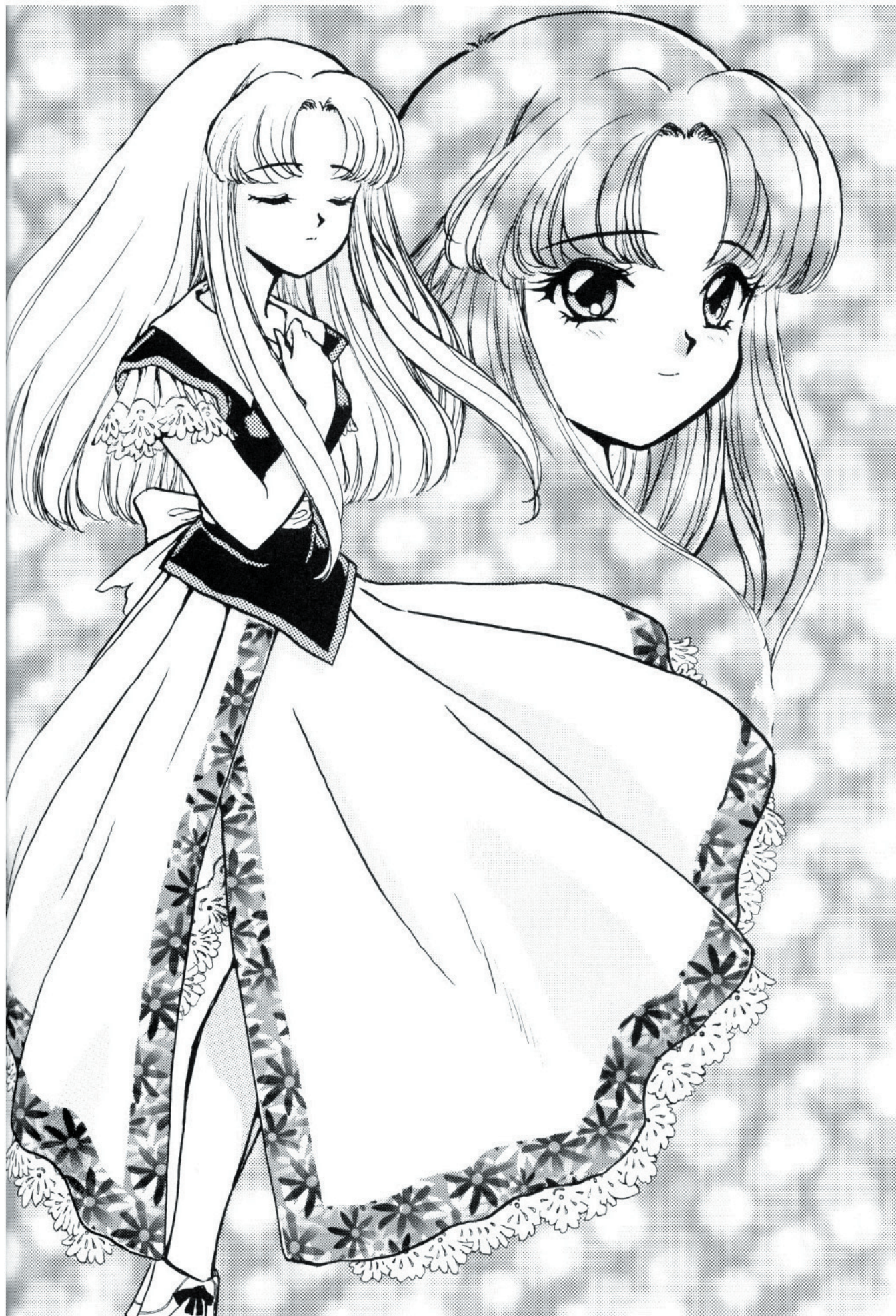
Achieving a Natural Balance

- When deciding on the figure's composition and overall proportions, use your guide lines to maintain the proper balance. Focusing too much on the proportions can often result in a lifeless figure, but the drawing will come alive like this so long as you develop the composition with a clear visual image.

Dream Fantasy

Drawn by Morio Harada

The lock of hair sweeping forward from in front of the ear subtly suggests the feminine shoulder line. Some may even visualize the line of a rising bust. Even something as simple as a strand or two of hair can trick the eye to create startling effects.

Line drawing

Your Most Cherished Dreams are the Soul of Manga

- Even in this simple line drawing, the artist has meticulously detailed the lace at the sleeve and around the hem. But the drawing takes on a whole new vibrancy with the addition of a black bodice and an elegant skirt border created with screentones. The black ribbon at the ankle provides another elegant accent.
- The finished drawing seems too real to be a dream, yet too imaginary to be real, and perhaps in that we can see the very essence of manga.

Girl Athlete

Drawn by Bancho Hoshino

From the very beginning, the artist was preparing the way for black hair with white highlighting to show the reflecting light. Such efficiencies are the mark of a true professional.

Line drawing

A Medley of Cheerful Faces for a Drawing Bursting with Fun

- It takes time to draw an initial sketch that is close to finished quality, but the advantage is that it simplifies your final pen work.
  When the pen work can move swiftly, it energizes the characters and lends spontaneousness to their expressions.
- A template was used to draw the circle for the ball, and careful attention to details such as shoe strings and soles, even with simplification, helps give the drawing a feeling of balance.

Sexy Babe

Drawn by Ganma Suzuki

The line of the fabric hugs the skin as if painted on, but the impression of a garment against the skin is created by the slight inflections in line where seam meets body. Varying the weight of the line brings out the softness of her fully-developed body.

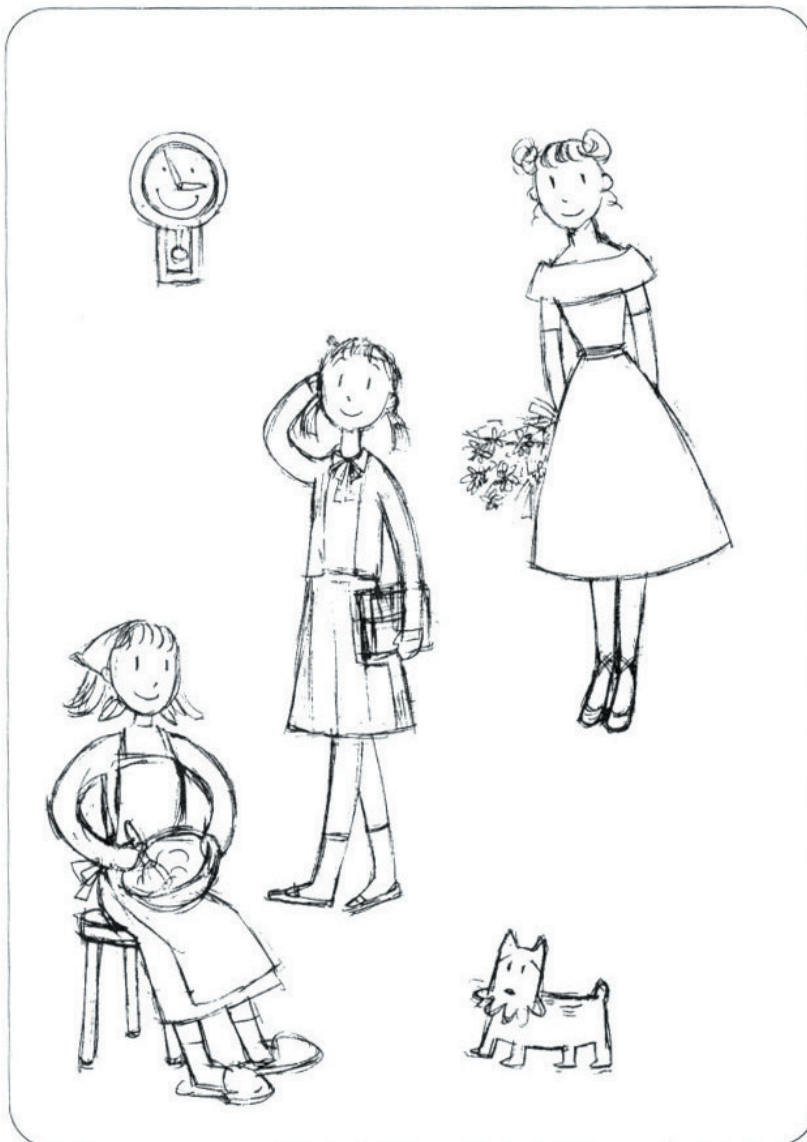
Line drawing

Exaggerate Boldly

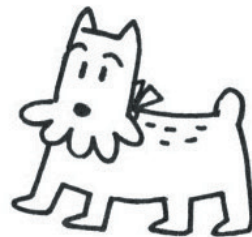
- Draw the figure with large breasts and buttocks to create a well-endowed woman full of vim and vigor. The eye-popping voluptuousness of the body is counterbalanced by a cute, slender neck and a slightly longer than normal torso, and the serene expression on her face adds to an impression of freshness and inviting softness. In poses that feature the buttocks, it's often easy to get excessively caught up in the shape of the two cheeks, but always keep in mind as you draw that the buttocks are where the legs grow from.

Humorous Illustration

Drawn by Shoko Ando

Even lines that look simple and artless can show movement and space. Draw as if you have become the object you are drawing, rather than as a person looking at it from the outside.

Rough sketch

Simplified Features, but Drawn with Warmth

- The facial features have been simplified to an extreme, and the body is distinctly stylized. But by applying the same style to each character, a certain feeling of rhythm is born between them. The unadorned dots and lines actually reveal a remarkable amount of expression. When drawn with a clear image and distinct sense of mood, even the simplest figures can be filled with heart.

Coquettish Maiden

Drawing by Yu Manabe

The subtle structural detail seen in the relationship of the shoulder strap to the curve of the breast is one of the secrets of making the figure seem more real and tangible. Such effective use of detail can only come from one's native artistic sense.

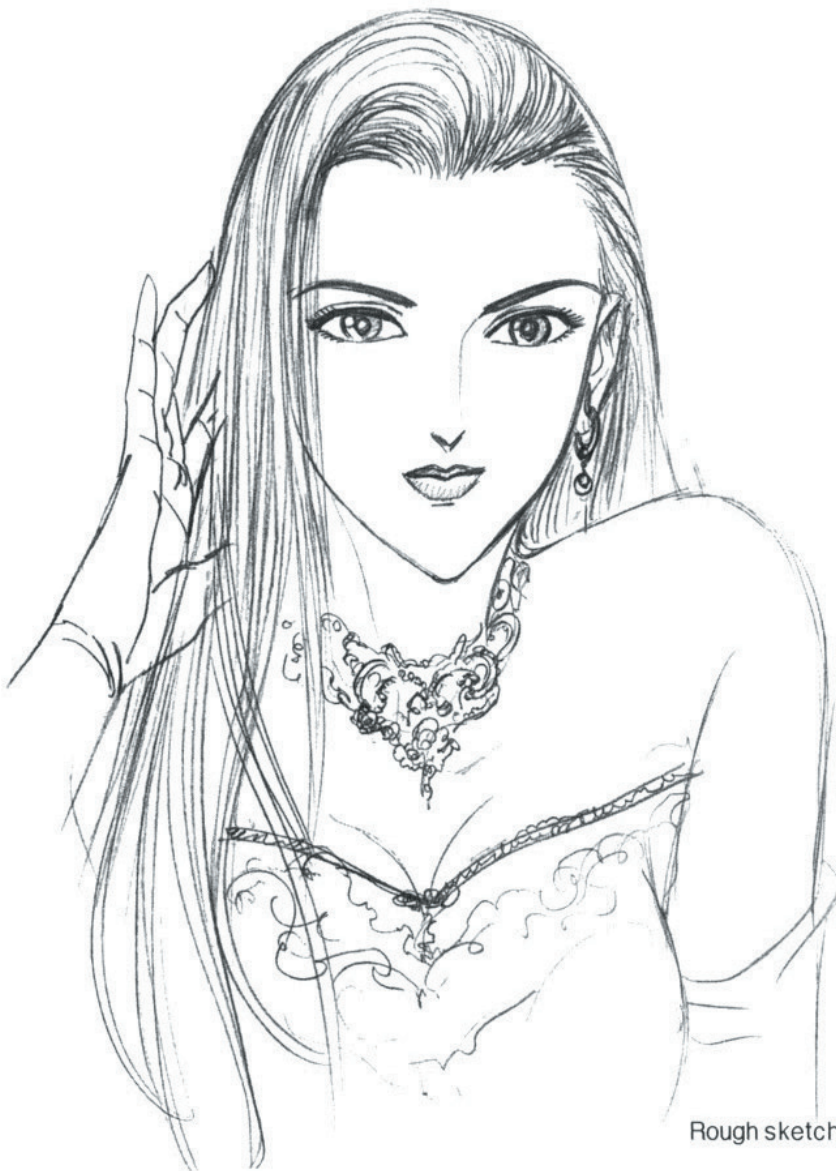
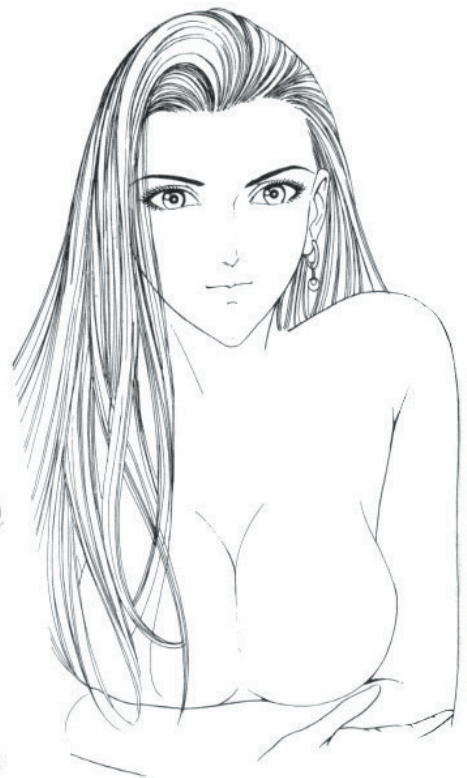
Rough sketch

For Proper Balance and Structure, Sketch Even What Won't Show

- By choosing a pose that provides a feeling of depth all by itself, you can create a powerful illusion of physical presence even in a standalone figure without any background. The secret to getting the right balance in this figure lies in including details of the loin area in the rough sketch, even though that part is slated to be spotted in black.
- The logo on the shorts provides an important accent. It may seem like a trivial thing, but drawing the logo neatly and sharply contributes to a feeling of tautness, and intensifies the feeling of physical presence.

Glamourous Beauty

Drawing by Noriyoshi Inoue

Avoid wasting time on small things. Once the pen work begins, the neck is left clean where the necklace is slated to go.

Rough sketch

Pursue Your Own Ideal of Beauty-Without Compromise

◆ On the way to a finished drawing, you have only so much time to decide on the composition, facial expression, accessories, and any special motifs you wish to include. In this case, the hand drawn so prominently in the rough sketch ultimately got removed. Since a significant amount of effort goes into even a rough sketch, the natural tendency would be to keep the hand even in the final pen work, but there is a valuable lesson in this example. In order to achieve the best possible rendering of your vision, you must sometimes be willing to change course, even if it means additional work. It is the refusal ever to compromise your vision that will ultimately bear the finest results.